

## OBITUARY NOTICES.

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### EDWARD LYALL BRANDRETH.

IN the Obituary list for the past year is the name of one of the oldest members of the Society, Mr. Edward Lyall Brandreth, Honorary Vice-President, who passed away on the 10th December, 1907, in his 85th year.

The event was referred to by our President, Lord Reay, in his opening address at the first General Meeting of the present year, and in proposing a vote of condolence with the family his Lordship gave a statement of the services rendered by the deceased to the Society. The statement was necessarily very brief, and as an old friend of Mr. Brandreth, and a fellow-worker with him in India and on the Council, I ask leave to give a few further particulars of his career.

Mr. Brandreth was a retired member of the Indian Civil Service, the third son of Mr. Joseph Pilkington Brandreth, M.D., of Liverpool, and grandson of Mr. Joseph Brandreth, the eminent physician. He was born in 1823 and a cotemporary at Eton and subsequently at Haileybury College, and a friend through life, of our late Honorary Secretary, Dr. R. N. Cust. At Haileybury he was a medallist in Persian and in Sanskrit, and throughout his career took a keen interest in Oriental studies, and latterly more especially in the vernacular languages of Northern India.

In India Mr. Brandreth received his earliest training as Civil Servant in the "North-Western Provinces,"<sup>1</sup> one of the most historic and interesting portions of the Bengal Presidency; situate in the region of the upper Ganges and its tributaries, with Benares, Agra, and (at that time) Dehli among its cities—the home of Sanskrit learning, the centre of Patān and Mughal sovereignties, and still the show-ground of their architecture, and, from a linguistic point of view, the cradle of Hindī and birthplace of Urdū literature. Such were some of the surroundings of his earlier Indian service. And here he was a cotemporary of two distinguished Orientalists; of William Muir, who, great as administrator and economist, was also great in Arabic, and his brother, John Muir, the well-known Sanskritist. With the latter, indeed, Brandreth, when Assistant Magistrate at Benares, for some time, shared a house.

But he was soon afterwards moved from the "regulation districts" of his province and attached to the Political Agency of "Ājmere and Mairwarra,"<sup>2</sup> two British districts in the heart of Rājputāna<sup>3</sup>—Ājmere picturesquely situated on a rock-hemmed plateau, with a fort and capital of the same name, where in A.D. 1615 the 'Great Mogul,' Jahāngir, received Sir Thomas Roe, first founder of our Indian Empire, and where, in recent times, the establishment of Mayo College, the 'Eton of the Rājputs,' has done much to stimulate Imperial loyalty; Mairwarra (the 'realm of the Mairs') a hill-tract in the Aravallis adjoining Ājmere on the south-west, once the home of hereditary plunderers, now, thanks to irrigation and

<sup>1</sup> A name which after the annexation of the Punjab became misleading, and has been recently changed to that of the "United Provinces of Agra and Oude."

<sup>2</sup> Now spelt 'Merwāra.'

<sup>3</sup> Now in the jurisdiction of the Rājputāna Agency—then under the Government of the N. W. Provinces.

recruiting, and the benevolent energy of Dixon, a land of peaceful cultivators and loyal soldiery. In this interesting region he remained until the annexation of the Punjab in 1849, after which he was transferred as Deputy Commissioner to the Cis-Satlaj States Division of the new province, and made his first acquaintance with Panjābī. In 1857, the year of the great Mutiny, he was on furlough; but soon after his return Dehli and four adjacent districts were transferred from the jurisdiction of the North-Western Provinces Government to that of the Punjab. This led to the formation of two new Punjab Divisions—that of Hissār and of Dehli. In 1859 he was appointed Commissioner of the Hissār Division, and in 1861 transferred in the same capacity to that of Dehli, where his calm judgment, serene temper, and warm sympathy with the natives of all classes, combined with tact and firmness, specially fitted him to restore confidence, after rebellion had been crushed, and deal wisely with the difficult questions of law and policy arising.

In 1863 he was transferred, as Commissioner, to the Rawalpindi Division, in the north of the Punjab, with its summer headquarters at Murree in the Western Himalayas, which gave him a new field for linguistic investigation. Here he worked as Commissioner till 1867, then served for two years as Member of the Legislative Council for India, and in 1870, while on furlough in England, retired from the service. Meanwhile he had been called to the English Bar in 1863, and had become a Justice of the Peace for Middlesex.

He joined the Royal Asiatic Society in 1857, was appointed a member of Council in 1872 and Honorary Treasurer in 1886, a post he filled for seventeen years, retiring in 1903. When the rank of Honorary Vice-President was created he was one of the first on whom it was conferred.

In June, 1877, he read a paper before the Society (Sir E.

Colebrooke presiding) on the "Non-Aryan Languages of India," a subject dealt with by Professor Max Müller thirty years previously, since when, however, much additional information had become available.

Dividing the languages into six main groups—the Dravidian (or Southern), the Kolarian, the Tibeto-Burman (subdivided into nineteen classes), the Khāsi, the Tai, and the Mon-Anam—each group comprising many separate languages and dialects, about one hundred and fifty in all, the paper gives a scholarly account of those among them of which a grammar or vocabulary was then available, a work of no small labour; while annexed to the paper is a language-map of India, coloured so as to show the position and extent of the several non-Aryan groups. There was a full discussion, in which Sir Walter Elliot, Sir George Campbell, and Messrs. W. W. Hunter, Lewin-Bowring, and Forbes took part, and the great interest attaching to these languages and the necessity for further investigation were strongly insisted upon.

On April 21st, 1879, at a meeting of the Society presided over by Sir Henry Rawlinson, he read the first of two papers on the "Gaurian as compared with the Romance Languages."

'Gaurian' or 'Northern' is a name given by Dr. Hoernle to the languages of Northern India in contradistinction to 'Dravidian,' applied by Caldwell and others to the languages of South India; and is here applied by Mr. Brandreth to those languages which Beames in his Comparative Grammar refers to as 'Modern Aryan,' and which may be perhaps more fitly designated 'Neo-Sanskrit'—languages bearing the same relation to the Sanskrit as the Romance or 'Neo-Latin' languages to Latin. They comprise the following vernaculars:—Hindi, Panjābi, Sindhi, Gujarāthi, Marāthi, Orya, Bangāli, on the Sanskrit side, and Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Provençal, and French on the Latin side; and the main object of Mr. Brandreth's paper is

to show that there is a remarkable resemblance in the changes by which Sanskrit had become 'Gaurian' and Latin Romance.

The second paper was read on July 5th, 1880, the two being the result, not indeed of independent research, but of careful and detailed study of the works of Beames, Trumpp, Hoernle, Diez, Littré, and Brachet.

The first part deals chiefly with phonology, and seeks to demonstrate that the letter-changes in the development of the Indian vernaculars from their Sanskrit base present a remarkable similarity to those occurring in the development of Romance languages from Latin.

In part ii he shows that certain characteristics common to both Sanskrit and Latin, e.g. the neuter gender, had generally disappeared in the derived languages; that the loss of case-endings was supplied by particles or prepositions; that special forms of tense and mood all tend to disappear, the present indicative and the imperative remaining as root-forms, to which the required shades of meaning—past, future, or conditional (as the case may be)—are imparted by separate verbs or verbal particles prefixed or added to the root, but not blended with it; that there is a great increase of diminutives and other minor developments, the paper concluding with a brief account of the prevailing rules of syntax.

Sir Henry Rawlinson took great interest in the papers and presided on both occasions.

On June 14th, 1898, Sir Raymond West in the chair, Mr. Brandreth read a paper on "Landscape in Indian Poetry," which led to an interesting discussion.

In addition to being the author of these papers, he was a most useful member of Committees.

But his energies were by no means confined to his work for the R.A.S.; he was a member of the Council of the Philological Society and a regular attendant at its meetings, and was for years one of the Honorary

Sub-editors of the "New English Dictionary." In 1879, when that great work was restarted under the auspices of the Oxford Press and the editorship of Dr. Murray, Mr. Brandreth enrolled himself among the volunteer helpers, and worked indefatigably as such, until a few weeks before his death, in collecting and arranging illustrative quotations, sub-editing the text of sections, re-examining work already done, and latterly in making research at the British Museum among printed books and manuscripts not available at the Bodleian. In the preface to vol. v of the Dictionary (the last volume published) Mr. Brandreth's services are specially recognised not only for assistance rendered in sub-editing, but "for great research into the literary history of Oriental words"; and in estimating the value of the work done by him Dr. Murray writes as follows:—"Among the many volunteers whose work has contributed to making the New English Dictionary what it is not many have had the capacity and qualifications, the willingness, and the time to work for it as our honoured friend has done. May his name never be forgotten when the story is told!"

As a Justice of the Peace, he was for years Chairman of the Kensington Board of Guardians, and also of the Managing Committee of the Poor Law Cottage Home Schools at Banstead, an institution which he took a leading part in establishing, and in which he always took the deepest interest.

All his work, both in India and at home, was painstaking and thorough, and, being blest with excellent health, he was enabled (to quote the words of the obituary notice in the *Times* of December 14th) "to live a life of continuous activity until a few weeks before his death."

His bearing was singularly quiet, and he was a model of courtesy, and the charming hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Brandreth (the latter passed away in 1897), both in

India and at Elvaston Place, will never be forgotten by the many friends who were privileged to enjoy it.

Mr. Brandreth leaves an only child, a daughter, now the wife of Mr. J. G. Butcher, K.C., late M.P. for York.

T. H. T.

*January, 1908.*

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MAJOR-GENERAL SIR FREDERIC JOHN GOLDSMID,  
K.C.S.I., C.B.

THE death of Mr. E. L. Brandreth at the ripe age of 84 has been quickly followed by the death of another Honorary Vice-President, the distinguished officer above named, who passed away on the 12th January at the still riper age of 89.

The deceased was a good specimen of a class to which the world in general, and India and the East particularly, are much indebted—a class of which our late Director, Sir Henry Rawlinson, was a fine example—the Military Civilian; combining indomitable energy, mental as well as physical, quickness of perception, accuracy of work and statement, together with the military instinct of respect for orders and instructions.

The subject of this memoir had all these virtues and many more. Besides being a good soldier he was a remarkable linguist. Having lived in France and Italy when young, he spoke French equally well with English and Italian with facility; at college he distinguished himself in classics, and made himself, as time went on, master, in more than a colloquial sense, of Persian, Arabic, and Turkish, in addition to Ūrdū, Sindī, and other Indian vernaculars. In Sind he proved himself a good Magistrate and Judge, with a keen interest in education, and a careful investigator of complicated questions of tenure