

NOTES OF THE QUARTER.

(July, August, September, 1900.)

I. NOTES AND NEWS.

MR. A. B. KEITH, who has taken his degree in Sanskrit and Pali at Oxford, is now engaged there in preparing a catalogue of the Hultsch Collection of MSS. in the Bodleian Library.

THE GOLD MEDAL.

ON July 11th His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales presented the Jubilee Gold Medal for 1900 to Dr. E. W. West. The presentation took place at Marlborough House. There were present—Lord Reay, President; Sir Charles Lyall, Sir F. Goldsmid, and Sir W. Lee Warner, Vice-Presidents; and the following Members of Council: Mr. Arbuthnot, Mr. Brandreth, Dr. Cust, Mr. Fleet, Dr. Gaster, Mr. Kay, Mr. Lyon, Professor Macdonell, Dr. Thornton, Mr. Wollaston, and the Secretary, Professor Rhys Davids.

His Royal Highness said:

The Royal Asiatic Society has founded a Gold Medal for Oriental scholarship, and has chosen as the medallist for this year Dr. E. W. West, who, born in 1824, was employed as civil engineer in the Bombay Presidency from 1844 to 1866. His duties taking him near the Buddhist cave

temples of which there are so many near the Western capital, Mr. West became interested in the inscriptions. In order to understand them he studied Pali; and his first scholarly work was a glossary of words in the great chronicle, *The Mahā Vamsa of Ceylon*, written in Pali: this was never published. But Mr. West published in 1861 and 1862, in the *Journal of the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*, facsimiles of the inscriptions he had copied at the Kanheri and Nāsik Caves.

Shortly after this, however, Mr. West's attention was attracted to the records of the Zoroastrian religion in the Avesta and Pahlavi dialects of ancient Persia. On his retirement from active service, in 1866, he spent three years at München—there was no provision in England for the purpose—in studying with Professor Haug these ancient records. In 1870 he published, at his own expense, the *Mainyo-i-Khard* (or "Spirit of Wisdom"), and in 1872, in conjunction with Professor Haug, three other old Persian texts.

He then began to work at translations, and from 1880 to 1897 published five volumes in the Oxford series of translations of the Sacred Books of the East, all these being from the Pahlavi. Dr. West is acknowledged to be the greatest living authority on Pahlavi literature; and the elaborate introductions and notes to the texts he had thus been the first to render into English are a mine of information on the history of the Zoroastrian faith and on the very difficult literature in which the remains of its ancient records are preserved. No one else could have done the work he has done so well—work distinguished not only by unique knowledge, but by a sobriety of judgment most important for a solution of the historical problems involved.

Dr. E. W. West is an Honorary Doctor of Philosophy in the University of München, an Honorary Member of the American Oriental Society, and a Corresponding Member of the Bavarian Royal Academy of Sciences. Besides the above works, Dr. West has published a *History of Pahlavi literature* in the *Grundriss der Iranischen Philologie*

and numerous articles in the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society.

I have very much pleasure in handing to you, Dr. West, this Medal, awarded to you by the Society in consideration of your distinguished services to the objects the Society was founded to promote.

His Royal Highness then handed the Medal to Dr. E. W. West; and the President, on behalf of the Council, gave expression to its most respectful and grateful thanks for the honour thus conferred by His Royal Highness upon the Royal Asiatic Society.

AN INTERESTING CEREMONY AT JUNAGADH.¹

ON Monday, the 4th inst., Colonel C. W. H. Sealy, Alienation Settlement Officer, Junagadh State, laid the foundation-stone of the building to be erected over the ancient rock-inscriptions of Asoka, Rudradāma, and Skandagupta, on the way to the Girnar Hills.

H.H. the late Nawab Saheb, Mahabatkanji, K.C.S.I., the father of the present Nawab Saheb, had erected a small building over the rock to save the inscriptions from the ravages of time. This was done twenty years back; but H.H., moved by the reverence-inspiring suggestions of the Sanskrit scholars and other eminent personages who visited this place, decided some time ago to get a more suitable building put up over the rock in keeping with its world-renown and historic importance.

There was a pretty large gathering in the pandal of Amirs, officials of the State, and several Shethias, who had commenced to arrive from 5 p.m., and by the time H.H. Nawab Saheb Sir Rasulkhanji, accompanied by the Heir Apparent, Vali-e-hed Sher Zumakhanji, Madar-ul-Maham

¹ Abridged from *The Kathiawar Times* of June 9th, 1900.

Vizier Baha-ud-deen-bhai, C.I.E., and Diwan Rao Bahadur Chunilal, arrived, the Shamiana was filled with audience and spectators. His Highness and suite were shortly followed by Colonel Sealy, accompanied by the Naib Diwan Khasusiat Dastagah Purushottamrai Jhala.

The Diwan Sahab Khasusiat Dastagah, Rao Bahadur Chunilal Sarabhai, addressed Colonel Sealy on behalf of His Highness as under :—

COLONEL SEALY,—I am desired by His Highness the Nawab Sahab to express to you the great pleasure it has given him to see that you have, in compliance with His Highness' wishes, kindly consented to lay the foundation-stone of a more suitable building which His Highness intends to erect over the world-renowned rock-inscriptions of Asoka, Rudradāma, and Skandagupta, which have from times immemorial graced this city, and which form an object of unabated interest to visitors and men of letters in all quarters of the globe.

The edicts of Asoka, preaching as they do unreserved toleration, universal benevolence, moral obligation, etc., have justly been held in veneration by successive generations; and many of the distinguished savants who have from time to time visited this place expressed a desire to have these precious relics of antiquity housed in an elegant building. His Highness' eminent friend and well-wisher, Sir Charles Ollivant, who has been Political Agent of this Province, and is now a Member of the Executive Council of His Excellency the Governor of Bombay, was also desirous, with his wonted well-known keen interest in matters of history, ancient and modern, of Gujarat and Kathiawad, to see that a befitting building was erected over this rare treasure.

The idea of such a building was uppermost in the mind of His Highness, and enquiries were therefore at once instituted by the administration as to the nature of the building and the style of architecture that would best suit the purpose.

The design has just been settled, and now as your labours as Alienation Settlement Officer in this State have been completed, and you are about to rejoin your appointment in the British Service, His Highness considers it most fitting in the nature of things that the laying of the first stone of the proposed building over these old rock-inscriptions should be performed by you, and that your esteemed name should be connected with the edifice that is to be the future receptacle of this glorious relic of the past,

particularly because in the course of your duties as Alienation Settlement Officer of the State you have often had to come across, decipher, consider, and form opinion on many ancient writings and learn in detail the past history of Saurashtra, because your services in this direction have been found to be very valuable and meritorious, and, above all, because you have always taken a warm interest in rare monuments of ancient history like the one we now see before us.

That the Junagadh State is keenly alive to the high value attached to these rock-carved inscriptions, which have withstood the ravages of time, will be amply testified by the fact that with a view to provide against future contingencies, and to leave to generations yet to come another memento (should the present one perchance give way in course of ages) of the past greatness of the Empire of which Saurashtra formed a not unobscured portion, arrangement has been made and the work is commenced to have these inscriptions copied on a rock of equal solidity which has fortunately been found in its vicinity, and to add to these inscriptions a short account of the present period.

During the dire calamity and distress of the severe famine that we are on this side passing through, all that human aid can do to afford relief to the persons requiring it has been and is being done, and numerous works of public utility, varying in magnitude and importance to the ryots, have been started in different parts of this State; and it may be hoped that the advent of the monsoon, which we all look forward to so eagerly, and indications of whose near approach are already visible, will reopen the usual resources and avocation of those now labouring in distant lands for want of the same, and establish them once more in peace and prosperity in their homes.

I cannot help adding that the pleasure of this occasion would have been much augmented by the presence of Mrs. Sealy, who is now in England, and who has with her genial and obliging disposition, her kind-heartedness and courtesy, willingly joined you in all social functions of the State during your stay here. His Highness regrets her absence, and hopes you will kindly convey to her his best thanks for the trouble she has taken on His Highness' behalf.

With these brief remarks, I request, on behalf of His Highness, that you will oblige us by laying the foundation-stone of the building.

The same having been translated into Gujarati for the behalf of the non-English-knowing members of the audience

by Rao Bahadur Gulabdas Laldas Nanavati, our State Judicial Councillor, Colonel Sealy spoke as follows:—

YOUR HIGHNESS, WAZIR BAHAUDDINBHAI SAHEB, DIWAN CHUNILAL,
AMIRS, AND OFFICIALS OF THE STATE—

GENTLEMEN,—Before proceeding to the ceremonial part of the function for which we are assembled to-day, it will not be out of place for me to say a few words. And first I must thank Your Highness for the very appreciative terms in which you have deemed fit to refer to Mrs. Sealy and to myself, as well as for the very kind thought which has prompted Your Highness to assign this pleasant task to myself. I am quite sure that Sir Charles Ollivant will be gratified to hear of this day's proceedings, than whom the State of Junagadh possesses no truer friend and well-wisher.

It is not for me to bring to your notice the terms of the various edicts which are engraved on this rock before us. Those edicts have been translated and commented on by numbers of distinguished archæologists and savants, and there are, no doubt, many among you who know a good deal more about them than I can profess to do.

But perhaps I shall not be far out in saying that those edicts, ancient though they be, preach a code of morality and civilization which is for all ages. The sword having been laid down, the ruler of a vast kingdom has here indicated the direction in which his efforts were then directed, viz., in the amelioration of the condition of his subjects, the observance of charity and kindness to men as well as to animals, and the encouragement to be given to philosophy and morals.

That monuments of this kind deserve all the care that can be bestowed upon them is a self-evident fact, and when such an authority as His Excellency the Viceroy has spoken on the subject, it is unnecessary for me to add anything.

But I think it is a happy coincidence that this day's ceremony should be synchronous with what we all hope will be the termination of a famine than which none sorer has afflicted this province within the memory of living men. If the grievous affliction, which has visited Kathiawad in common with Gujarat and other even larger tracts of country, has taught both rulers and ruled one lesson more than another, it is, perhaps, the entire mutual interdependence of the one upon the other. Without his patient ryots the chief cannot obtain the sinews of war or the means to advance

the arts of peace, and without the application of such means to useful public works the condition of the ryot can never be ameliorated.

I therefore look upon this day's ceremony as an indication that Your Highness intends to carry on the beneficent ideas of the famous Asoka, of which good intention so many examples already exist in this State, and more especially in its capital. The famine has necessitated the undertaking of numerous works of improvement, all tending more or less to the benefit of the poorer classes of the community, and if it has opened the eyes of the cultivating class to the necessity of making the utmost use of the means in their power and the desirability of laying up something in times of prosperity for days of adversity, the visitation will be a blessing in disguise.

In conclusion, I will take this opportunity of declaring the regret with which I see my connection with this State severed. It is a State of peculiar interest to all connected with Kathiawad, and I need hardly say that during our stay therein Mrs. Sealy and I have received every attention and consideration from Your Highness and all your officers with whom it has been our fortune to come in contact, and we shall always look back to our stay in Junagadh with particular satisfaction.

And now, Your Highness, I am entirely at your disposal to carry out what is required of me.

The above having been explained to the audience in Gujarati by Rao Bahadur Gulab Das, His Highness took Colonel Sealy to the place where the foundation-stone was to be laid, which, on being done, the band struck up a few notes of joy, as the usual declaration of the foundation-stone being well and truly laid was made, and on their return to the Shamiana bouquets and garlands of flowers, attar and pan supari, were distributed.

Colonel Sealy then drove back to his bungalow, accompanied by the Naib Dewan, while His Highness the Nawab Saheb, the Vizier Saheb, and the Divan drove to the Bhavnath Relief Camp and works at the foot of the Girnar, where there have been a poor-house having about one thousand inmates and about six thousand relief-seekers, working for nearly eight months past.

Royal Asiatic Society.

GOLD MEDAL FUND.

IN 1897 the Council of the Royal Asiatic Society established a Jubilee Gold Medal, to be awarded every third year, as an encouragement to Oriental learning amongst English-speaking people throughout the world; and to meet the expense contributions were invited from those interested in the scheme.

A beautiful design was prepared, and dies engraved, by Mr. Pinches; the first Medal was awarded, on the report of a Committee of Selection, to Professor Cowell, and was presented to him by Lord Reay at a Special General Meeting of the Society, the proceedings of which will be found reported in the Journal for July, 1898. The second Medal was bestowed upon Dr. E. W. West, and presented to him at Marlborough House on the 11th of July, 1900, by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, a Vice-Patron of the Royal Asiatic Society.

The subscriptions (including interest on deposits) amounted to £448 10s. 5d., and the disbursements (including cost of die) to £100 16s. 11d., leaving a balance (after providing the Medal for 1897 and for the present year) of £347 13s. 6d., of which amount £343 13s. 6d. was expended in the purchase of £325 Nottingham Corporation 3 per cent. Irredeemable Stock (a Trustee Stock), and there is therefore a sum in hand of £4 0s. 0d. The amount invested forms an Endowment Fund which will produce an income of £9 15s. 0d. per annum. As this provides the amount which will be required, the Fund in question is complete, and the subscription lists will be closed so soon as all outstanding donations have been received.

A. N. WOLLASTON,

Chairman of Committee.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY,
22, ALBEMARLE STREET, LONDON.
September, 1900.

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