

OBITUARY NOTICES

Lord Reay

FROM the public point of view the career of Lord Reay, whose death took place on August 1, has been commemorated with due appreciation in the *Times* and other organs of the Press ; and many more tributes from institutions and societies which had benefited by his wise and moderate counsels, his statesmanly instinct, his accomplishments and experience, and his distinguished and courtly presence will, no doubt, be placed on record. The Royal Asiatic Society, of which he had been President since 1892, may claim to have enjoyed a full share in his regard. He seldom failed to be in the chair at its public gatherings or at the meetings of its Council. He was always in close touch with the work of the honorary and permanent officials ; all important proceedings were discussed with him, and, even when the course actually followed had not his entire concurrence, it generally bore the impress of his advice.

From the admirable obituary notice in the *Times* we are permitted to quote the following summary account of his lordship's ancestry and early career, as well as to extract some other particulars :—

“ The Scottish peerage of Reay was created in favour of Donald Mackay of Far, chief of the clan Mackay, in 1628. This restless soldier was one of the many Scots who during the long peace which followed the accession of James VI to the English crown sought fame and reward in the Continental wars. He was succeeded in the title by his son John, who remained loyal to the Stuarts during the Commonwealth. The second Lord Reay had two sons, Donald, who never succeeded to the title, but was ancestor of the subsequent peers until the death of Eric, the ninth Lord,

in 1876; and Æneas Mackay, colonel of the Scots regiment in Holland, from whom the late Lord Reay was descended. Æneas was the father of another Colonel Æneas Mackay, who by his marriage brought the Dutch estate of Ophemert into the family. He was the first of the Mackays settled in Holland who accepted permanently the foreign domicile. His son, Baron Barthold Mackay, served in the Dutch Navy; and his grandson, Baron Æneas, who eventually succeeded to the Scottish title, was a Minister of State and Vice-President of the Council of the Netherlands. Baron Æneas married a daughter of Baron Fagee, a distinguished Dutch statesman, and became the father of the late peer.

“Born on 22nd December, 1839, Baron Mackay was educated at the Gymnasium at the Hague, and at the University at Leyden; where he graduated in Laws. After graduating he entered the Dutch Foreign Office, and was appointed an honorary attaché to the Dutch Legation in London. He was then transferred to the Dutch Colonial Office, in which he held for a short time the post of an Assistant Secretary. This he resigned in 1866, in order to make a tour through the United States, for the purpose of studying the social and political condition of the country at a particularly interesting period of reconstruction. On his return to Holland he was elected president of a society for the promotion of manufactures and handicrafts, and in that capacity he organized the first industrial exhibition which was ever attempted in Holland. In 1871 he was returned to the Chamber of Representatives of the States-General as Liberal member for Tiel. The subjects which most engrossed his attention were those relating to the social well-being of the people and to the Colonies. He was again returned to the Chamber of Representatives in 1875, the year in which his father succeeded to the Scottish title of Reay, on the death of the ninth baron. The succession was a barren honour, for the ancestral estates, ‘the Reay country,’ had been alienated by Eric, the seventh lord, in 1829. The tenth

Lord Reay remained in Holland, where he died in 1876, and the title devolved upon his son.

“The new peer decided to take up his residence in England. In 1877 he resigned his seat in the Dutch Chamber of Representatives, and became naturalized as a British subject. In the same year he married Fanny Georgiana Jane, the widow of Alexander Mitchell, M.P. This lady possessed considerable estates in Berwickshire, and thus Lord Reay was enabled to assume with dignity the position in Scotland which was due to the Chief of the Clan Mackay. As a Scottish Liberal peer, he had little opportunity of taking any practical part in politics until 1881, when he was created a baron in the peerage of the United Kingdom. Meanwhile he had been studying the social and economic conditions of England and Scotland, and was president of many useful societies and congresses for the advancement of social and intellectual interests. In 1884 he was elected Rector of St. Andrew’s University.”

Lord Reay’s connexion with India was initiated by his appointment in 1885 as Governor of the Bombay Presidency, in succession to Sir James Fergusson. His tenure of the office was a marked success, and it was attended by progress in many departments, such as railways, forestry, and local government. The greatest achievement of his time is held to be the Bombay Municipal Act. But the subject which probably ranked first among his interests was education. It fell to him to develop and apply to the Bombay Presidency the conclusions of the Education Commission, presided over by Sir William Hunter, which issued its voluminous report in 1883–4. It was in the field of primary education that the most important advance was made by Lord Reay. But technical education was recognized by him in its full significance for India; and under his auspices was founded the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute, which achieved an “extraordinary initial success”, and the Reay workshops were attached to the school of art. Agricultural education was encouraged in connexion with the College of Science at

Poona, and in 1886 the Bombay Veterinary College was opened. Lord Reay also took measures to foster education in special parts of the country, such as Sind and Gujarat, and among particular communities, for example the Muhammadans and Lingayats, "depressed classes" and aboriginal tribes. The main tendencies of his policy were to the encouragement of private enterprise and of practical aims. An address which he delivered before the Convocation of the Bombay University in 1889 deserves to be read by all persons interested in Indian education.

Of his position as Governor Lord Reay had a very clear conception. In his dealings with his Council and with the Secretariat there were some original features. His methods were calculated to maintain his independence, and his appointments were not invariably under the sway of routine. Among the members of his council one on whom he much relied, especially in legal matters, was Sir Raymond West, who afterwards served our Society as Vice-President and Director under his Presidency. Other colleagues in the Bombay administration who were then or subsequently connected with the Society were Sir William Lee-Warner, Col. G. A. Jacob, and Dr. Fleet. Many distinguished Orientalists and members of the Bombay branch — we may mention Dr. Bhagvanlal Indrajī, Mr. Justice Telang, Mr. Justice Ranade, Sir R. G. Bhandarkar, Mr. Justice Tyabji, Professor Bühler, Professor Kielhorn, Sir Narayan Chandavakar—worked with or under him or came in contact with him.

Lord Reay manifested an active interest in humanitarian and charitable works, in which sphere he was ably seconded by his wife. It was said that never had Bombay founded so many and such useful institutions as during his time, and that, having found the city proud of its architecture, he left it proud of its hospitals, laboratories, and asylums. He had an extraordinary success in eliciting private munificence. "There was scarcely a single movement of this kind in the

Presidency which had not felt the beneficial touch of his helping hand." In company with Lady Reay he was also influential in promoting social intercourse not only between European and Indians, but also among the different native communities. Lady Reay also showed her care for the feminine portion of the population by the foundation and support of hospitals and by her encouragement of *Purdah* parties. These efforts, joined to his lordship's gracious courtesy and charm of manner, won him a marked popularity among all classes. Professor Bhandarkar spoke of "the form which had become endeared to them". With the native princes in particular the Governor was successful in cultivating friendly relations. Quite a number of institutions in Bombay and the towns still bear his name or that of Lady Reay. In 1889 his portrait was installed in the Victoria Institute, and upon the termination of his Governorship a memorial fund was inaugurated, resulting in the fine marble statue by Gilbert, which adorns the vicinity of the present secretariat. The proceedings in connexion with this fund and with the unveiling of the statue by Lord Sandhurst in 1895 are recorded in a brochure published in 1896. But for a full commemoration of this eventful period in Lord Reay's career we must turn to Sir William Hunter's *Bombay 1885 to 1890* (Oxford, 1892).

In 1892 Lord Reay became a member and later along with Sir Raymond West a Vice-President of the Royal Asiatic Society; in the next year he succeeded Lord Northbrook as President. At that time the governing body included, among others, such well-known scholars as Sir Henry Rawlinson (director), Professor Sayce, Sir Alexander Cunningham, Professor Robertson Smith, Sir Thomas Wade, Sir Monier Monier-Williams, Dr. Rost, while the office of Honorary Librarian was held by Dr. Codrington, and the secretary and assistant secretary were Professor Rhys Davids and Miss Hughes, all three, as well as Mr. James Kennedy, then an honorary auditor, destined to serve the Society during a long period under his Presidency. Lord Reay proved an ideal

chairman for the public meetings of the Society. His dignified figure and courtly manner, his gift of ready and pointed speech, on occasion his perfect command of the French language, lent a grace especially to the anniversary meetings, when the Society took stock of its achievements and prospects. In one of the first of these assemblages he dealt with a subject in which he was later to make a decisive intervention, namely, that of the establishment of a School of Oriental Studies in London. A notable occurrence in the first years of his tenure was the institution of a Triennial Gold Medal, which was first awarded to Professor E. B. Cowell in 1897. Subsequently, in consequence of the success in eliciting subscriptions with this object, a matter in which Mr. A. N. (now Sir Arthur) Wollaston was specially fortunate in eliciting the liberality of Indian princes, provision was made for a second medal, annually awarded for the best essay sent in by pupils from certain schools, and ultimately a sum was available for a third object, namely, a series of prize publications now numbering six volumes, of which the first was published in 1909. Through the liberality of Lord Northbrook and Mr. F. F. Arbuthnot, and the active exertions of the latter, the Society was able to found a new series of the Oriental Translation Fund, in which a large number of important works have appeared, Professor Rhys Davids' visit to India in 1899 resulted in a project for a series of volumes to be issued by the Society on behalf of the Government of India with the title *Indian Texts Series*. In the course of the protracted negotiations which followed a second series, entitled *Indian Records Series*, was added, and eventually the relation of the Society to both series, which are published by Murray, became rather that of a guarantor of their scholarly quality than an actual controlling authority. In 1907 a standing committee was appointed to deal with the matter; the proposed tale of volumes still awaits completion. Lord Reay took a personal part in the discussions and negotiations connected with this matter.

An important transaction of the years 1905-8 was the revision of the rules of the Society, in which the late Dr. J. F. Fleet took a prominent part. Of the reconstruction the leading feature was the provision for compulsory retirement from the Council after four years' service. During this period the proceedings of the Council and even of the general meetings were not always harmonious; and the President's reserve and moderation, as well as his occasional assertions of authority, were by no means out of place.

On June 2, 1903, an interesting letter, addressed to the *Times* by Dr. Sten Konow, of the University of Christiania, drew attention once more to the need of a School of Oriental Studies in London; and about the same time the Council had to deal with a proposal for a system of recommending teachers of the languages of the East. But it was perhaps Professor Rhys Davids' address to the British Academy in February, 1904, which gave the initiative. The first public outcome was a deputation to Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, as First Lord of the Treasury, on December 4, 1906. The deputation, in which beside the British Academy a number of Societies, including our own, were represented, was headed by Lord Reay. Of the Treasury Committee appointed to take evidence and present a report his lordship was nominated chairman. The report and evidence, the latter contributed by many eminent scholars, British and Continental, were issued as a blue book in two parts during the year 1909. When the time came for giving effect to the Committee's recommendations (in 1909), the matter was referred to a new committee, of which the most prominent members were Lord Cromer and Lord Curzon, while Oriental scholarship was more particularly represented by Sir Charles Lyall, then one of the Society's Vice-Presidents, and also head of a department in the India Office. To the success of the labours of that committee it is unnecessary to refer. Upon the governing body of the School established in Finsbury Circus Lord Reay was naturally chosen as the Society's first representative; he resigned in 1916.

Another capacity in which his lordship maintained a close connexion with Orientalism was that of chairman of the the Board of Oriental Studies in the University of London. This position he held from 1901 to 1918, and until recent years he was usually present at the meetings.

We need not here do more than refer to Lord Reay's tenure of the office of Under-Secretary of State for India (1894-5), or of his work as Chairman of the London School Board (1897-1904). He was a prime mover in the foundation of the British Academy in 1902, and its first President (1902-7). He was also Vice-President 1892, President 1897 of University College and Chairman of its Council from 1908 until his death, and of the Institute of International Law and the Franco-Scottish Society. These pre-occupations did not detract from his interest in political matters or prevent his taking a distinguished part in the debates of the House of Lords.

An unfortunate accident in the year 1917, resulting in a broken thigh-bone, which refused to join, confined Lord Reay thenceforth to an invalid's chair. It did not, however, prevent his appearance at the meetings of University College and the Royal Asiatic Society. He was rarely absent. He took a keen interest in all the transactions connected with the Society's recent change of domicile; and in addition to his public appearances he was always ready to welcome the officials of the Society, once even the whole Council, to discuss matters with him at his house in Berkeley Square (No. 35). He presided with his wonted grace and cheerfulness at the last Anniversary meeting in May of this year, and at the last Council meeting in July. Those who consulted him just prior to his leaving London for the summer failed to note any signs of weakening interest or grasp of affairs; and in spite of his great age the announcement of his death, in the *Times* for August 2, came as a surprise. The Society sent wreaths to his funeral in Scotland, and at the memorial service in St. Columba's Church in Pont Street on August 4 it was, considering the holiday season, well represented.

Lord Reay was made a G.C.I.E. in 1887, and a G.C.S.I. three years later. In 1906 he became a Privy Councillor, and in 1911 the high honour of Knighthood of the Thistle was conferred upon him. Lady Reay died in 1917: there had been no children of their marriage. Interesting references to his lordship's literary and social life and to the Breakfast Club, of which he was a member, will be found in the volumes of the late Sir Mountstuart Elphinstone Grant Duff's *Notes of a Diary* (London, 1899).

F. W. THOMAS.

H.R.H. Prince Vajiranana

THE Society regrets to record the death of the Siamese Patriarch, His Holiness Prince Vajirañāna. The Prince was Supreme Patriarch of the Buddhist Church in Siam, and his scholarship was of a high order. In 1898 he was elected Honorary Member of the Society, and on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday presented the R.A.S. with sixty pounds in honour of the event.
