

Maskat

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Death of Lieut. Brasseur.—The death of this enterprising traveller, to whose explorations in the south-east portion of the Congo Free State frequent allusion has been made in our pages, is announced by the *Mouvement Géographique* (1898, No. 7). Lieut. Brasseur was killed while leading an attack on the *boma* of Chiwala, an Arab chief much given to brigandage, who had established himself on the banks of the Luapula in about 12° S. lat. With a short interval he had been on active service under the Congo State since 1890.

Life of Sir Stamford Raffles.*—The interest attaching to the career of Sir Stamford Raffles is largely of a geographical kind; and the copious biography which Mr. Boulger has prepared will be welcome to all students of the Malay Archipelago. Sir Stamford Raffles was born on board ship in the West Indies in 1781, he administered Java for the East India Company during the brief period while it was held as a British possession, strongly opposed its return to the Dutch, founded Singapore in 1819, and died in 1826. The foundation of Singapore was a piece of geographical prescience of the highest order, as the whole eighty years of its existence have proved. It is definitely established in this biography that Sir Stamford Raffles, attracted to the site of Singapore from its historical associations, fully recognized its true value. His official statement says, "I have now the satisfaction to report . . . that a British station commanding the southern entrance of the Straits of Malacca, and combining extraordinary local advantages with a peculiarly admirable geographical position, has been established at Singapore, the ancient capital of the King of Johore."

Two Journeys in Northern Somaliland.—The photographs in Mr. Aylmer's paper (*Geog. Journal* for January) are by Mr. Frederick Gillett, except the first, which is by Mr. F. Gunnis.

Major Grant's Occultation Method.—In the note by Mr. E. A. Reeves, in the February number of this *Journal*, "To find the Angles from the Vertex of the Moon," etc., the paragraph (p. 167) commencing, "The last four lines" to the end of the note, should be read *after the footnote*, to which it belongs.

The Indian Survey Report.—General Strahan, the Surveyor General, writes with reference to a statement in the article in the January number of the *Journal* on the Indian Survey Report for 1895–96, that no change has been made in the Survey year, which has always been from October 1 to September 30, and that the delay in issuing the last report was due to causes beyond the control of the Survey Department.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Maskat.

London, February 14, 1898.

MAY I be permitted to reply to the remarks of Senhor Cordeiro on my *Maskat* paper, printed in the February number of the *Journal*.

The correction of the inscription had already been made, practically as proposed by Senhor Cordeiro, in my letter printed underneath that gentleman's, and I think the copy of the inscription has proved to be as accurate as could be expected after three hundred years' weathering.

With regard to the date of Dom Henry's death, I should perhaps have written 1579–80, as the year 1579 then was not completed until March, 1580.

* 'The Life of Sir Stamford Raffles.' By Demetrius Charles Boulger. With portraits, maps, and illustrations. London: Horace Marshall & Son, 1897.

The Portuguese were finally driven out of Oman (the province on the Arabian coast) in 1560, as stated in my paper—Maskat being the last place held by them in that country. Their establishment at Kong was on the Persian coast, opposite to Oman. I hope to write about the settlement at Kong in a future paper.

I should be glad to learn whether the names of kings of Portugal or Spain are usually only given as initials in such inscriptions.

I feel much indebted to Senhor Cordeiro for his careful criticism, and quite sympathize with his patriotic feeling about the unjust invasion and seizure of Portugal by Philip II. of Spain, which undoubtedly was one of the chief causes of the ruin of the great Portuguese empire in the East.

ARTHUR W. STIFFE.

MEETINGS OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, SESSION 1897-98.

Sixth Ordinary Meeting, January 31, 1898.—Sir CLEMENTS MARKHAM, K.C.B., President, in the Chair.

ELECTIONS.—*Rushton Webber Adamson; George William Bird; Peter McNeil Carney; George Richard Clarke; Rev. Henry Dalzell, M.A.; Arthur Matthew Weld Downing, M.A., D.Sc.; Robert Fenner; Hon. Wm. Chas. Hanbury-Tracy; Richard Henry Harris; Lieut.-Colonel G. H. Henderson; Frederick G. Henriques; Robert Louis Jefferson; Henry Knight; Hy. A. Hallam Farnaby Lennard; Arthur Edward Lightbody; Allan McGregor; Duncan Mackinnon; Captain John Marriott (Norfolk Regiment); Richard Caldwell Minton; Major Henry Courtenay Morland (Retired, 9th Lancers); Alfred Edward Moxon; Admiral Gerard Henry U. Noel; L. C. F. Oppenheim; Rev. Hy. Wm. Leicester O'Rorke, M.A.; Gilbert Parker; Legh Sylvester Powell; Ambrose Beatty Rathbone; T. Sankey; Fred. Sykes; Arthur Boddam Taylor; Charles Erskine Vertue; Stuart Monteith Vines, B.A.; Sir Charles George Walpole, C.B.; William Gibson Wedderspoon; Brigars Robert Williams; John Clark Wilson; Oswald Vavaseur Yates.*

The Paper read was:—

“Through Somaliland to Lake Rudolf.” By H. S. H. Cavendish.

Seventh Ordinary Meeting, February 14, 1898.—Sir CLEMENTS MARKHAM, K.C.B., President, in the Chair.

ELECTIONS.—*Edward Dodson; Captain J. Markham (60th Rifles); Richard Smith; William Myers Wills; Basil Aubrey Holland Wood.*

The PRESIDENT said: Before we commence the proceedings of the evening, I should like to mention that some progress has been made with regard to private antarctic work. Mr. Borchgrevink has purchased a very strongly-built whaler in Norway, well fitted for ice-work, and he is now, I believe, busily engaged in preparing his expedition, which will sail next July. I am sure that we wish him all possible success. I trust also that M. de Gerlache, in spite of very limited resources, will soon be able to send us home a report of useful results.

The paper read was:—

“A Recent Journey in Western Australia.” By the Hon. David W. Carnegie.