

importance of the conclusions to which he was thus drawn induced him to publish the article entitled "The Zoroastrian Period of Indian History", which appeared in two issues of this *Journal* (January and July, 1915). Spooner anticipated that this would meet the usual fate of such novel and boldly stated speculations. Though sensitive, as most modest men are, he did not worry over criticism on minor issues, feeling that it did not affect the really essential questions involved. He was much cheered, on the other hand, by the very sympathetic treatment and even encouragement his arguments received at the hands of certain learned European and Indian scholars, whose opinion he justly valued. Spooner was appointed Deputy Director-General of Archæology in 1919, and had acted as Director-General on more than one occasion while Sir John Marshall was absent on leave.

It was delightful to walk with Spooner round the pits and trenches at a site he was exploring; to feel the absorbing enthusiasm that inspired him; to observe his grasp of detail and power of co-ordinating data obtained, and his fertile imagination; and last, but not least, to enjoy the charm of a gentle, cultured mind of wide intellectual attainments. Deep sympathy will be felt towards his widow, whose remarkable linguistic acquirements were of such assistance to him. Deeply interested herself in every detail of his work, she shared both his successes and his disappointments.

C. E. A. W. OLDHAM.

Lord Curzon

George Nathaniel Curzon was born at Kedleston, Derbyshire, in 1859. He was created Earl Curzon of Kedleston in 1911, and Marquess Curzon in 1921.

Readers of our *Journal* will be mainly interested in Lord Curzon as Viceroy and in his activities in the field of Oriental geography, history, and archæology.

As a young man, after a very distinguished career at Oxford, he travelled extensively in the Middle and Far East,

visiting Central Asia, Persia, Afghanistan, the Pamirs, Siam, Indo-China, and Korea. In 1895, he received the Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical Society. In connexion with his travels he published in 1889, *Russia in Central Asia*, in 1892 *Persia and the Persian Question*, and in 1894, *Problems of the Far East*. By far the most important of these was his monumental work in two volumes on Persia, which has never been superseded. On the geographical side especially it is a most masterly work, and exhibits throughout the amazing clarity of the writer's mind, and his rare command of the English language. Though Lord Curzon was in no sense an Orientalist, he knew his Indian—and especially his British Indian—history well, and always displayed fine scholarly instincts in his dealings with experts. He fitted himself for his foreign department work in India by the intimate personal knowledge he acquired of the countries which encircle her, and these travels served him not merely as an administrator, but also as a student of history.

It may be fairly claimed for Lord Curzon that he did for the monuments of India what Sir William Jones had done for her literature; and his Viceroyalty will perhaps be remembered for his untiring efforts in the cause of archæology and the preservation of artistic and historical landmarks when his administrative reforms and his policy have been long forgotten. How a man, even of his inexhaustible energy, found time for such extraneous activities fills us with amazement. No Viceroy ever kept the secretariat more busily employed, and we doubt if any before him ever worked on so many files. He created new departments and changed the whole routine of work. But in spite of all this he was always ready to give sympathetic ear to schemes of a purely historic or artistic nature. The impetus he thus gave to research cannot be overestimated. Lord Curzon loved India; and he loved nothing in India more than her monuments. One of the books which influenced him most was Busteed's *Echoes from Old Calcutta* which he read on his way to India,

and the number of editions this admirable work has been through is no doubt largely due to the interest which Lord Curzon aroused in the monuments of the then capital of British India. He himself contributed a delightful introductory letter to the fourth edition in 1908. In his archæological work, as in all else, he was not content if he did not himself scrutinize everything. He knew every detail of the old Fort William site, and though it is now all built over, he caused the main outlines to be indicated by brass tablets. His memory was astounding. He visited every important monument in the course of his tours, and everywhere left some record of his visit. The Annual Reports of the Archæological Survey during the years of his Viceroyalty are replete with evidences of his activities and keen personal interest.

It is impossible here to enumerate the restorations and improvements he set on foot. The Gardens of the Taj, the fort at Mandu, Sanchi Tope, occur at once to the mind. By a happy chance he had in his Director-General of Archæology, Sir John Marshall, a scholar and an enthusiast, who was exactly the right man in the right place, who fortunately came to India at the right time.

Perhaps one single instance may be given of the practical manner in which Lord Curzon was always ready to help the cause of scholarship. There had been founded at Bankipore, many years before Lord Curzon's arrival in India, the Khuda Bakhsh library of Arabic and Persian manuscripts. It was pointed out to him that owing to the proximity of the library building to thatched houses there was constant danger of fire, and that the contents of the collection deserved to be properly catalogued. The Viceroy immediately took the matter up, and having arranged for the purchase by the Government of Bengal of the land immediately surrounding, and for a Government subvention towards the upkeep and cataloguing of the Library, himself went and officially opened the Library under these new auspices.

Although, as everyone knows, Lord Curzon suffered almost

continuous pain from sciatica, in other respects he possessed a wonderful physique, and a will power which enabled him practically to disregard the climatic discomforts of India. He could not only stand with apparent immunity the Indian sun and heat by day, but was also able to work half through the night at his files and correspondence after a strenuous day of official duties. After a dinner party and a reception, after shaking hands with hundreds of guests and conversing with officials from all over India, he would go up to his study at midnight and work until 3 a.m., and be ready betimes for the exacting routine of the morrow.

The work of Lord Curzon may be classed under several separate heads :—

- (1) The preservation of Indian monuments.
- (2) The excavation of ancient sites.
- (3) The commemoration of British Indian monuments.
- (4) The encouragement of historical and Oriental research ; and last, but not least, the building of the Victoria Memorial Hall, and the formation of a collection to be permanently exhibited in the Hall when completed.

Lord Curzon took the keenest interest in every detail of the construction of this great memorial to Queen Victoria, and this alone took a great deal of his time, especially the vexed question of the marble to be employed. With the laying of the first stone he began to busy himself with the collection of suitable exhibits in the shape of pictures, engravings, arms, Oriental manuscripts, and historic documents, dealing mainly with the Victorian era. These were in the first instance placed on view in one of the galleries of the Indian Museum, and afterwards in Belvedere. Long after Lord Curzon retired from India, he continued to interest himself in this collection, and was always on the look out for pictures of historic interest. It is pathetic to think he should never have seen the complete Memorial, which was formally opened by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales in 1922.

A fine example of Lord Curzon's romantic sense of history

was offered by the great ball he gave in Government House, Calcutta, on 6th January, 1903, the exact centenary of Lord Wellesley's ball, where all the guests appeared in costumes of the period, and Lord Curzon himself wore the uniform of Lord Wellesley.

Lord Curzon's name will be ever gratefully remembered by all students of Indian history and archæology, and the many labours of love he undertook in the midst of his strenuous official life will bear permanent testimony to his devotion to the records of India's great past.

E. DENISON ROSS.

Bishop Casartelli

By the death of the Right Rev. Louis Charles Casartelli, Roman Catholic Bishop of Salford, a distinguished name is removed from the roll of Members of this Society, and Oriental learning, and Iranian studies in particular, sustain the loss of an eminent and accomplished scholar. Dr. Casartelli was of Italian descent, his father being a refugee from Como in Lombardy; and his son spoke and wrote with some pride of his Lombard origin as forming a closer link between himself and the people of the land of his adoption.

As a boy he was educated at Salford Grammar School, whence in due time he proceeded to Ushaw College, associated with the University of London, and, at the close of a brilliant course, graduated Master of Arts at the University with a gold medal for Classics.

By this time the ancient University of Louvain had been revived, and there, for two periods, with eight years' interval, Casartelli studied Avestan, Pehlavi, and Sanskrit, under the illustrious Professor de Harlez. The firstfruit of these studies was his excellent treatise entitled *La Philosophie religieuse du Mazdéisme sous les Sassanides*, a work that still remains the most valuable and authoritative monograph on the Mazdeism of the Sasanian period, and which at once placed its author amongst the foremost Iranists of his day. For this he