

*From the Editor.*—Babylonian and Oriental Record, vol. iii. No. 3.

Ragozin (Mdme.).—The Story of Assyria. 8vo. New York and London, 1887.

— The Story of Chaldæa. 8vo. New York and London, 1886.

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## III. OBITUARY NOTICE.

*Major-General W. Nassau Lees*, LL.D., Ph.D., who died in London, on the 9th March, at the age of 64, was the youngest son of the late Rev. Sir Harcourt Lees, and brother

of Sir John Lees, the present Baronet. He entered the Bengal Army in 1845, and became a Major-General in 1885; but for some years before his death he had resided in England, and his name was borne on the unemployed supernumerary list. Although an Arabic scholar of considerable repute, he was perhaps better known for his Oriental work in India than in England. At different periods of his service he filled the several appointments of Principal of the Calcutta College (*madrasah*); Examiner in Persian and in Muhammadan Law, and Persian Translator to Government; Professor of Law, Logic, Literature and Mathematics; Examiner in Arabic at the Muhammadan Colleges of Hugli and Calcutta; and responsible referee on the language qualifications of civil and military officers.

As regards his literary labours, the following is quoted from the *Athenæum* of the 16th March :

“The Arabic publication for which his memory will be more particularly honoured by scholars is, perhaps, the ‘Commentary’ of Az-Zamakhshari, so much esteemed among Sunnis. Of those devoted to Persian authors, the ‘*Nafahátu ’l-Uns*’ of Jámí (a notice of celebrated Sufis and saints modernized from an older chronicle), and the interesting ‘*Vís u Rámín*’ of Fakhru ’d-dín As’ad Jurjání, which Dr. Rieu describes as ‘the poetical version of a romance originally written in Pehlevi,’ are worthy the attention of both scholars and *dilettanti*.

“Besides the above, there are in the Royal Asiatic Society’s library the ‘*A’aris i Buzurgán*’ (A.D. 1855), or an obituary notice of Muhammadan doctors, edited by W. Nassau Lees and Maulavi Kabiru ’d-dín Ahmad; the ‘*History of the Khalifs*’ (A.D. 1856), by Abu’l Fadhl ‘Abdu ’l-Rahmán Jalálu ’d-dín bin Abi Bakr us-Suyúti, with (same year) a ‘*Book of Anecdotes, Wonders, Pleasantries, Rarities, and Useful Extracts*,’ by Al Kulyúbi, with both of which Nassau Lees had to do; and (A.D. 1868) the ‘*Alamgírnámah*,’ by Muhammad Kazim Ibn i Muhammad Amín Munshi, edited by Maulavis Khádím Husain and ‘Abu ’l-Hai, ‘under the superintendence of Major W. N. Lees, LL.D.’

“Not the least remarkable of his many contributions to serial literature is an article called ‘Materials for the History of India for the 600 Years of Muhammadan Rule previous to the Foundation of the British Indian Empire.’ This appeared in the second part of vol. iii. of the Asiatic Society’s *Journal*, published in 1868, and, although written more than twenty years ago, it opens with a thoughtful review of the relations of the natives of India to their English superiors, which might be studied with advantage at the present day. The information contained in the body of the paper is of a very valuable kind, and if only the impetus to Asiatic research and the study of Oriental tongues, which recent action on the part of the London Asiatic Society was intended to give, were sufficiently real to culminate in revival, its republication, with some additions and modifications, would be desirable.”

To the above may be added a contribution to the *Journal* of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal “on the application of the characters of the Roman Alphabet to Oriental Languages,” and six papers published in the Proceedings of the same society, entitled :

- On the Muhammadan Conquest of Arabia (1865).
- On the *Ikbál Námeh-i-Jahángírí* and other authorities for the reign of the Emperor *Jahángír* (1865).
- On Double Currency (1865).
- On the Oriental Colleges at Lahor (1866).
- On Scientific Technology (1866).
- On the *Maásir-i-‘Alamgírí* and *Kháfi Khan* (1868).

Before the proceedings of the Society became separated from the *Journal*—as done in 1865—he had already contributed notes on the following subjects: An Arabic Stone Inscription from *Mirzaganj*; the “*Saraffins*” and their connection with the English Sovereign; the Romanizing of Oriental alphabets; the Muhammadan Historians of India; the origin of Hindi and its relations to the Urdu dialect; and the derivation of the numismatic term “sovereign.”

It is, moreover, shown in the “Centenary Review of the researches of the Bengal Asiatic Society,” published in 1885,

that Ensign Lees, so far back as 1853, brought out an edition of the Arabic *Fatúhu'sh-Shám*, or account of the Muslim Conquest of Syria by Abú Ismá'il Muhammad bin 'Abd Alla Al Azdi Al Bašri; together with the pseudo-Wakidi's work on the same subject. He also edited, in conjunction with Maulavis Abdu'l Hakḡ and Ghulam Kádir, the *Nakhbatu'l Fikr*, with the Commentary called *Nuzhatu'n-Nazar*, by Shahábu'd-dín Ahmad Ibn Hajar al Askaláni; and was one of many editors of the *Išabah*, or biography of persons who knew Muhammad, by Ibn Hajar.

In addition to the Persian works mentioned by the *Athenæum*, he supervised the printing of Mr. Morley's edition of the *Tárikh-i-Baiháki*, and in part superintended the publication of Maulavi Saiyid Ahmad Khan's edition (1868) of the *Tárikh-i-Firuz Sháhi*, by Ziyáu 'd-Dín Barani. An interesting account of this history of the Muhammadan sovereigns of India will be found in the third volume of Dr. Rieu's Catalogue of Persian MSS. in the British Museum.

He was, besides, joint editor (1863) of the *Tabaḡát i Násiri*, by Minháju 'd-dín al Jurjáni; and (1864) of the *Muntakh-abu't Tawárikh* of Abdu'l Kádir Badáuni, stated by Dr. Hoernle to be second, as a history, "to none in the whole range of historical works by Muhammadan authors." And the publication of the *Iḡbál námeh-i-Jahángiri*, of M'utamid Khan, and of the *Bádsháh Námah* of 'Abdu'l-Hámid Lahauri was indebted to his superintendence.

General Nassau Lees had been a Member of the Royal Asiatic Society for more than sixteen years, having joined it in 1872.

#### IV. NOTES AND NEWS.

*MSS. from Burma.*—Mr. James George Scott, of the Burma Service, has found time, in spite of the arduous duties of his frontier post, to collect and send home to his brother, Mr. John Scott, Fellow and Bursar of St. John's College, Cambridge, a very valuable selection of Páli, Burmese, and Shan MSS. Among the former are the *Pátika Vagga* of the great