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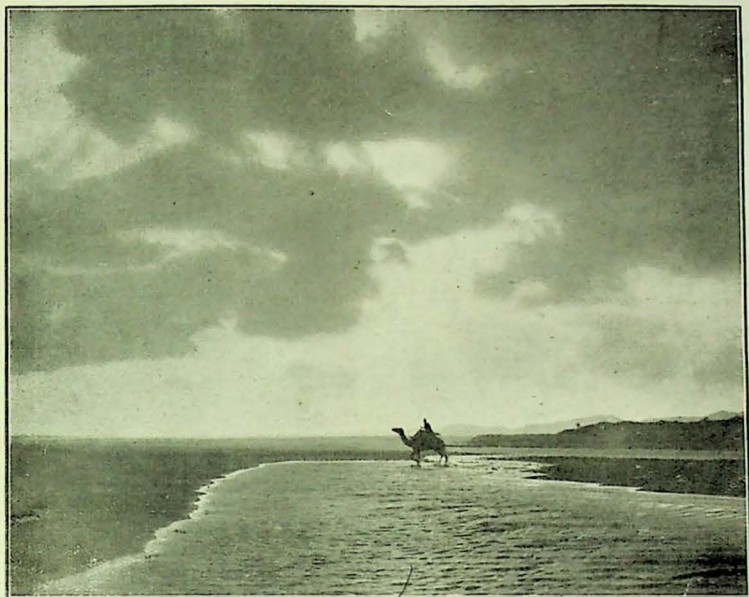
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THE CROSSING

N. E. Sopariwala.

A solemn solitude around
Beneath the lowering skies—
While far away on airy hills
The evening-glory lies.

Reflected in the shallow stream
That softly gleams and glows,
And like a broad resplendent band
Through barren low-lands flows.

Its rippling wavelets kissed by breeze
But interrupt the calm
With sweet celestial melody
That pours a soothing balm.

A lovely camel dips his feet
Into the cooling tide,
And warily wades he through the waves
To reach the other side

Away from village and from town
From worry, woe and strife,
'Tis like a safety seeking soul,
That fled, to win its life.

That roamed and found the healing tide
Of prayer, in distress,
And reached through tears the noiseless-shore
Of peace and happiness.

—ELSA KAZI.

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APPEAL FOR FUNDS

I have great pleasure in giving publicity to an appeal addressed by The Naval Officer in Charge, Karachi, and hope the readers of "The Sindhian World" will contribute generously to the Fund.—THE EDITOR.

"Since the commencement of the war, the Royal Indian Navy has increased its fleet of ships by over 800 per cent, and there are now some 3,800 Indian ratings manning these ships.

The ships of the Royal Indian Navy are in constant patrol along the coasts of India, and keep open the entrance to the main ports of this country. At least once every 24 hours the mine-sweepers manned by Indian ratings are searching for enemy mines and destroying those that are found, thereby making safe the shipping lanes for the free entry of ships from all parts of the world, bringing to these shores those commodities which are necessary for commerce and food for the benefit of the people.

The monotony of these unceasing patrols will be appreciated and with the object of looking after the welfare of the Indian ratings a Fund has been opened, with the permission of His Excellency the Viceroy, to purchase books in the vernacular and in English, games, cigarettes, warm clothing (for the men serving in the Persian Gulf) etc.

May we ask you to show your appreciation of the work carried out by these men by sending a donation. There are no administrative charges to the Fund beyond postage.

Our main object at present is to equip every ship's Mess with a radio and loudspeakers so that the ratings may hear the news and enjoy the programmes in their own language.

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All donations will be personally acknowledged by Vice Admiral Fitzherbert, The Flag Officer Commanding, The Royal Indian Navy."

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THE LANDING OF THE FIRST ENGLISH IN SIND

AN ACCOUNT OF A TRADING VENTURE MADE IN 1613.

(BY N. M. BILLIMORIA.)

Samuel Purchas published in 1624-26 in five folio volumes, "Hakluytus Posthumous, or Purchas his Pilgrimes, containyng a History of the World, in Sea Yoyages and Lande Travels, by Englishmen and others." This work is very rare and expensive, costing from £125 to £150.

Maclehose reprinted the work in 20 volumes in 1905; the fourth volume of this set is useful as it contains several interesting facts about Sind.

I give below extracts from "A Journall of all principall motters passed in the twelfth Voyage to the East-India, observed by me Walter Payton in the good ship the *Expedition*; the Capitaine whereof was M. Christopher Newport, being set out, Anno 1612. Written by Walter Payton." (I have changed the old spelling for the convenience of the readers).

The first part relates to Saint Augustine, Mohelia, and divers parts of Arabia. The seventh of January (1613) we set sail from Gravesend for the East-India, in the good ship, the *Expedition* of London, being about the burthen of twohundred and sixty tons; which carrieth in her fiftysix persons, besides a Persian Ambassador and his followers, who are in number fifteen, which we had order to receive in our ship, to be transported into the kingdom of Persia, at the costs and charges of the Worshipfull Company aforesaid. The name of the Ambassador and his people are these: Sir Robert Shirley, the Ambassador; Teresha, his

Lady, a Circasian; Sir Thomas Powell, Tomasin his Lady, Leyley, a Persian woman, etc.

The second part relates to their coming on the Persian Coast; the treachery of the Baluchees. Walter Payton proceeds to add that this Country Macquerona (Makran) is bordering close upon the Persian Land, being part of the Main Continent of Asia; and Guader Port standeth in about 25 degrees North latitude, and the variation 17 degrees 15 minutes; good anchorage between four and five fathoms.

The one and twentieth of September at night, our Baluche Pilot brought our ship in danger of a shoal; where we were inforced to chop to an anchor, till the next morning.

The four and twentieth at night, we lay a-hull (because we were not far from Cape Camelo) there passed close by us a Portugal frigate bound for Sind; which at first we supposed to have been a Galley, and therefore armed ourselves for defence.

The 3rd part relates of their coming to Divulgingde, landing the Ambassador, seeking Trade, and crossed by the slanderous Portugals going to Sumatra and Bantam; and return.

Payton continues: the six and twentieth we came to an anchor right before the mouth of the River Sinda, with directions of a Pilot, which we had out of one of the fisherboats which were fishing there. We rode in a foot less than five

fathoms water (the River's mouth bearing East and by North) in very good ground; and is in the latitude of twenty-four degrees and thirty-eight minutes, to the Northward of the Equinoctial Line, the variation is 16 degrees 45 minutes.

Hereupon the same day the Ambassador sent two of his people ashore, to speak with the Governor concerning his Lordship's coming ashore; and to tell him his intent to have passage through that country into Persia. Which Governor, named Arah Manewardus, being of Diul, was very willing to welcome the Ambassador, and to show him all the kindness he could (for the love he professed to the King of Persia) both in his Royal entertainment, and passage through his country or Jurisdiction, and sent a principal man aboard us, accompanied with five or six more to welcome his Lordship, with many compliments, assuring him of kind entertainment.

So presently there were boats sent for from Diul, to carry him, his people, and his goods ashore, which came on the nine and twentieth of this instant; upon which day we were cleared both of him and his (both in number and health) as when they first entered into our ship; for his farewell, eleven pieces of ordinance, were shot off from our ship. Also, Simaadin, our Baluche Pilot we set ashore at the same time (being intreated of the Guserats) notwithstanding his desert to have been set in the sea, in that he would have cast us away twice; whereof, once by himself, and another time by his devilish counsell given to another Pilot, which he had of the fisher-boats here.

At the Ambassador's departing out of the ship, the Captain delivered him

a fine piece double locked, to present the Governor of Tata, a great city, one day's journey from Diul, both cities standing in the Great Moghul's Dominions. Also we entreated His Lordship that he would send us word how he found the country, and whether we might have trade there or not; and withall delivered His Lordship a note in writing what we chiefly desired. The copy whereof doth follow.

"Inprimis, that our coming hither to this Port, as it is purposely to land Your Lordship, so withall we have brought, certain commodities and money, to the end if we obtain safe protection for quiet and peaceable trade, we may make sale of such and so much of our commodities as shall be fitting; otherwise we desire but leave to refresh and so depart. Likewise, if the Governor please that we may settle a factory here, we also desire it; and although now we are but slenderly provided, yet, hereafter we will bring such store, and sorts of commodities as shall be most required and conveniently vended in this Port.

"The commodities we now have brought are these *viz*: Elephant's teeth, fine pieces, Lead in barres, Mosers' teeth, (walrus) Tin in bars; some Rials of Plate."

The 30th of September, the Ambassador had audience with the Governor of Diul concerning all his business; (The Portuguese tried their utmost to prejudice the Governor against the English)..... Then Arah Manewardus spake in the Ambassador's behalf, rebuking them sharply for such unseemly contradictions of the Persian Ambassador and so concluded, absenting the Portuguese out of the room. After wards the Ambassador made speech unto the said Governor and

Assembly concerning the admittance of us into his Port, to trade (according to directions given His Lordship from us, as aforesaid which was very kindly imbraced by the Governor; with willingness to do therein what he might, all inconveniences understood. For which purpose he willed the Ambassador to send for one or two merchants from abroad, to confer with him upon the same.

Whereupon the Ambassador wrote a letter unto us, by two of his people, who came aboard our ship on the second of October 1613, in the morning by which letter we perceived His Lordship's proceedings in our desired business with the Governor, with assurance of our safe going and return; being in such good sort and fashion, that our hopes were great in establishing a trade there, if not a factory; especially to make sale of small quantity of goods which we now brought. Wherefore Master Joseph Salbancke and myself (Walter Payton) fitted ourselves with the advice of the Captain and others in our ship and went ashore in one of the country boats the same morning about eight of the clock, our ship riding about four or five miles from the river's mouth, from whence we had fifteen miles to the City Diul, where the Ambassador was, so that it was late in the evening the same day before we landed.

Not long after, the Officers of the custom-house came and conducted us up to the castle, where the Governor dwelt, who we thought would have spoken with us that night, but did not, because it was so late; yet the officers, being for the most part Banians and spoke good Portuguese, searched every part about us for money, not leaving so much as

our shoes unsearched. (Payton here speaks about the malice of the Portuguese)

The third of October in the morning the Governor sent the Ambassador word that in the afternoon he would have speech with us.

The Governor sent for us; and withall commanded four great horses gallantly trapped, to be brought unto the Ambassador's house for His Lordship, Sir Thomas Powell, Master Salbancke, and myself (Walter Payton); also a certain company of his servants, to conduct us to the Castle; also all the Ambassador's followers went with him, each of them carrying an Halbert on their shoulders.

Thus we rode through some part of the City, wherein the people in every street came flocking to see us, they having of long time heard talk of Englishmen, but never had seen any before now; for we were the first that ever came into that part of the country. When we came to the Castle we were received very orderly and directed through some spacious rooms (where soldiers were standing on each side as we went in ranks, clothed all in white linen from head to foot) upto an high turret where the Governor and some other were set; who at our entrance arose, and saluted us, bidding us kindly welcome. Then we all sat down together round upon the floor, according to their fashion.

Then the Governor again said we were very welcome and that he was glad to see Englishmen in those parts and proceeded to further talk concerning our business and told us (whereas we desired trade) the Portugals would not consent that we should drive any trade or have to do where they were, threatening to be gone if he did enter-

tain us, Notwithstanding if he could be assured of a greater benefit to arise by our trade than by theirs, he would not care, if they did forsake him; for he did well affect our Nation. But in the mean time he having farmed the customs of that Port from the King, unto whom he stood bound for the payment of certain sums of money yearly for the same, whether it came in or not; it behooved him carefully to be circumspect in ordering those businesses whereby to avoid the King Highness' displeasure; which unhappily might fall out to his utter overthrow and undoing.

And then he began to tell us further that the custom of the Portuguese trade together with their mean in letting out their ships to Guzarates and Banians, amounted unto a Leck (Lakh) of Rupees yearly, which is ten thousand pound sterling. Then he demanded of us what sorts of commodities we had now brought and the quantities of each; also what store of money? All which we answered him a little more or less and withall told him that although now we brought but small quantities yet we could furnish that Port at our next return with any commodities whatsoever the Portugalls did bring; and such a quantity of each as we should perceive requisite and fitting to be vended (sold) there.

Of this he liked well, and asked in what time we could return from our Country thither again? We answered him in about twenty-two months. So he concluded, saying, that in regard of our small stock, the Portugalls would both laugh at him, and us, if we should be entertained now. Wherefore he wished us, to defer it until our next coming, and in the meantime he would give us a

writing under his hand and seal, thereby to assure us of entertainment at our next coming, conditionally, that we come provided as aforesaid, and we to leave him another writing, to assure him that our ship should not molest any of the King of Mogore ships, goods, nor subjects; which we agreed unto; withall requesting him that although he would not receive us whereby to establish a trade now; yet that he would permit us to make sale of those goods we now had; which in no wise he would grant for fear of offending the Portugalls, alledging as before.

Then we desired him that we might have water and other refreshing for our money, and we should depart so soon as we could. For this he said, that so soon as we did send him our writing aforesaid, he would both send us another, and give order to his Officers for the same; but he would not have the Portugalls know thereof. So we seeing no remedy demanded of him what sorts of commodities he would have us bring thither; also what commodities that country did afford; who answered these *viz*:

Broad cloth of divers prices, and light colours as Stammels, Reds, Greens, and sky-colours, and Aniles, Blawes, and Azures, etc. Elephant's teeth, iron, tin, lead, steel, spices, money; These commodities are to be carried for Sinder.

Commodities to be had there: Indigo in Lahor. Indigo of Cherques. Callicoes all sorts; Pintadoes of all sorts; Guserat and Cambaya commodities of all sorts, with many sorts of drugs.

Then we took our leaves of him and parted returning to the Ambassador's house again, where I framed a letter, and sent him according to our promise.

signed by M. Salbancke and myself; and received another from him likewise which was in the Persian language much like the Hebrew letter backward; The English whereof was interpreted to us by the Ambassador; as followeth, viz.

Whereas here arrived at this Port of Diul in the Kingdom of Mugore, one English ship called the Expedition whereof is Captain Christopher Newport, and Merchants, Joseph Salbancke, and Walter Payton, to land Don Robert Sherley, the King of Persians Ambassador who desired grant of trade in this Port (being under my government) which willingly I would have granted but only for prejudicial inconveniences insuing; for they brought not merchandise fitting in quantity to begin such trade; neither the Portugalls by whose trade at present I reap benefit, would consent thereto, threatening to be gone if I did receive the English Nation. So that thereby I should have been left destitute of all trade, whereof those summs of money to arise yearly, which I am bound to pay unto the King's Majesty; and in default therein, I should put in hazard his Highness' displeasure, to my utter overthrow and undoing. Yet notwithstanding for the love I owe unto the King of Persia, by whose Ambassador I am requested and the affection I bear unto the English Nation, together with the faithful performance of their writings left with me under their hands and seals of the two merchants aforesaid (which is not to molest or meddle with any of the said King's ships goods nor subjects in the time of this their voyage, in the ship aforesaid), I have given them this writing under mine own hand and seal hereby promising the English Nation (that if they will come like themselves,

so fitted that I may advantage myself more by them than by the Portugals) infallible assurance of intertainment to trade, which such reasonable grant of privileges, as we shall agree upon. Dated at Diul the third day of October, Anno 1613.

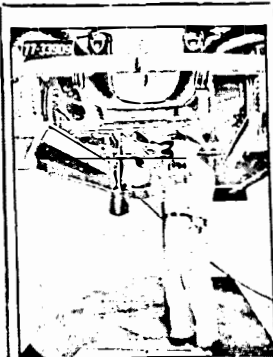
Sd. ARAH MANEWARDUS.

Sealed with Ink.

Then Payton narrates how the Persian Ambassador induced Master Salbancke to go with him to the King of Mogore to Agra to obtain a Firman from His Majesty.

The sixth of October we arrived aboard our ship again where it was agreed upon that Master Salbancke should go, as aforesaid, with the Ambassador for Agra. Wherefore he fitted himself, thinking to have gone ashore the next day; and in the meantime the Captain sent the Pursuer and his man to buy fresh victuals and provision for the sea; who, when they came to the City were by the Governor presently turned back again as they went; and expressed command by proclamation upon pain of death, the country people should bring no more English men ashore. These sudden and strange alteration made us much to marvel; for we could never know the certainty where upon it grew, or what should be the cause.

The ninth (October 1613) we set sail from hence, directing our course with God's leave, to Sumatra.



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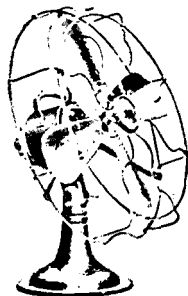
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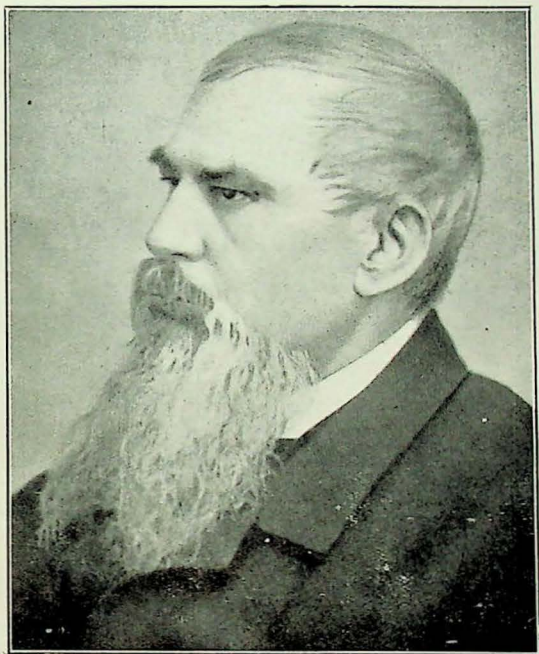
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Richard F. Burton

Capt. Sir Richard F. Burton, K. C. M. G., F. R. G. S., Etc.

A Brief Biographical sketch of
SIR RICHARD F. BURTON
 A SIND HISTORIAN
 by

Late RAI BAHADUR DIWAN BULCHAND DAYARAM.

The name of Burton is familiar or ought to be familiar to every Sindhi. He is the liveliest and most interesting of Sind's historians though somewhat discursive. His "Sind the Unhappy Valley" and "Sind Revisited" ought to be in the hands of every educated Sindhi. This student geographer, traveller and linguistic historian is as much at ease in the relation of historical and ethnographic details of Sind as in the exposition of crudities of its varied dialects and the eccentricities of their syntactical rules. Burton's biography ought to be a most interesting subject of study for every educated Sindhi. His life and adventures are steeped in old-world romance and have the colour and glow of mediæval chivalry. Yet how many in Sind have any but the dimmest and haziest conception of his literary labours, his adventures, his travels and his discoveries.

Richard Burton belonged to a very respectable family in Hertfordshire. His mother was a wealthy co-heiress and was a descendent of the Macgregors and Macleans of Scotland. He was born in 1821 and being the first child of his parents, became the darling of the house. His grand-father belonged to Westmoreland but early settled in Ireland. The family traced its descent to the Marquis of Conyngham. One of the Burtons fought so bravely in the Wars of the Roses that he was created a Baron by King Edward VI, after the second battle of St. Albans. Burton's father was a

Colonel of the 36th Regiment. But his military career was a short one, as he retired from service very early. He had 3 children—two sons and one daughter. The eldest was Richard, the object of this sketch. His father was the handsomest man of his regiment, with a "clear olive complexion delicately modelled, slightly arched nose and bright piercing eyes". His mother, if not so regular in features, was quite as attractive as her husband. Richard showed every sign of equalling his father's good looks. Richard's mother was very gentle and singularly selfless. Burton said in after days that "his father was the most moral man he had ever known" and his mother, such that "nothing in heaven or earth was too good for her". Of such excellent parentage was Richard and very happy was he as a child in the love of father and mother.

In early age he was a boy of poor health and weak physique but as he grew he developed into a man of great strength and extraordinary power of physical endurance. In later life, when he travelled through Arabia, Asia Minor, Africa, and South America, he could subsist on the sparest and most abstemious diet, bearing hunger and thirst, fatigue and ennui more patiently than the most stoical Spartan. He became wonderfully hardy and active, and a most indefatigable traveller, walking and riding, almost as if his body was endowed with preternatural powers of locomotion. As a boy he was rough in manner and

mischievous as a monkey, although always brave and affectionate. But in later life he became one of the most courteous and considerate of men and as staid and grave when occasion demanded, as an archbishop. He showed tireless patience and dignity in putting up with the follies and bigotries of *Isabel* his Roman Catholic wife.

Little 'Dick' received his education first under a lame Irish school master, by name Clough in the town of Tours in France, whither his father had gone with his family for the sake of his health. There the Burtons remained all 1829. He was next sent to a preparatory school at Richmond under the Rev. Charles De-la-Fosse "a bluff portly man with an aquiline nose who looked a model pedagogue". There he hardly learned anything beyond using his fists and quarrelling. The father now took him with his brother Edward and his sister to the continent where he put the three children under a private tutor *M. Du Pra* of Exeter College under whom they made rapid progress in the classics and modern languages. Local masters taught them swimming, fencing and dancing. Fencing was their chief occupation and Richard became a great expert in it and cultivated the art all his life. His two treatises on it "On the Sword" and "Bayonet Exercises" (the latter of which was adopted by the military authorities in England), both written, when he had passed his manhood, attest his early skill and keenness of passion for it.

The family travelled a good deal on the continent during this period. It journeyed to Italy, visited Rome, Naples, Pisa and other important towns. Then it went to the Pyrennes in Spain. From

Spain it went back to Pisa of which his father was very fond. While in Spain, Richard applied himself very vigorously to learning drawing and this art enabled him to draw sketches, maps, plans and pictures in later life, when he travelled in unknown and obscure regions in Asia and Africa, alone and without any European comrade and had to be his own calligrapher and amanuensis, draughtsman and artist, amid strange, inhospitable and weird surroundings.

In Pisa, as a youth, he fell a prey to Cupid's darts, and conceived romantically tender passion for an Italian girl, with the palest possible complexion and regular features described by one of his biographers as the "first of a long procession of beloveds". Marriage was proposed and agreed to, but parental consent was impossible of attainment. The days of Romeos and Juliets no longer existed in the world, and there was no obliging Friar Lawrence to arrange the nuptials. So the two lovers vainly beat against the bars of the world's conventions. Their difficulties proved insurmountable and their farewells and parting sighs were heart-rending, but parental authority remained inexorable.

The father now left Italy and went back to England. Richard was now 19 years of age and the time had arrived for him to go to College. So he took him to Oxford and his brother to Cambridge and intended that both of them should take holy orders. But none of them showed any attitude for the priestly calling and hated being "sucking parsons". A certain Professor, a well known Greek Scholar, coached Richard in the classics but found him sadly deficient. It was winter time.

when the father took them. So Richard was lodged with Dr. Greenhill and Edward studied with a clergyman at Cambridge. The University studies required hard work and strict self-denial and Richard was unequal to them. Soon a bright idea struck him. Why not become a soldier and leave off the unattainable classics. They wished to join the Indian Army, attracted by the opportunity of learning oriental languages and to study the older civilizations and strange men and manners. So he wanted to learn Hindustani and Arabic. He tackled Arabic first and by and by learnt its alphabets and went through an antiquated grammar of the language. There was a regular professor of Arabic at Oxford but, as was then facetiously remarked, he had no occupation but to "profess" Richard applied to him but he was told a Professor can teach a class but not a single student. Autumn term being over, he went to stay with his grandmother and aunts in London. There he met three sons of a Colonel White who were all preparing for military service in India. The society of these three youths strengthened his resolution to choose a military career. He discussed the subject with his brother, who came up from Cambridge. But they could not come to any conclusion. Spring term arrived and they had to hurry back to their colleges. Richard set himself to invent a system of learning oriental languages, peculiarly his own, and thus made a considerable progress in Arabic which was to be of the greatest service to him in after days. His Greek and Latin seemed to have done him more harm than good.

Colonel Burton who had gone to Lucca meanwhile, now brought his wife

and daughter to Wiesbaden in Germany in order to be near England and the two "boys" were sent for to Germany to spend their vacation there. The delight of mother and sister at seeing the bright merry-hearted young fellows was great. Richard was so loving a son that his mother, then an invalid with a heart complaint, exclaimed when he left her that the "Sun had left her horizon". From Wiesbaden the family went to Heidelberg, where Richard further improved his knowledge of fencing, by frequenting the University Fencing room. The delightful holiday at last came to an end and Richard tried to prevail on his father to let him enter the army. He told him, with tears in his eyes, that the training he had received fitted him for a soldier's life and made a successful career at Oxford impossible for him. Edward also pleaded in the same strain and begged for a commission. But the father was inflexible. So the youths took a sorrowful leave of mother and sister and left for England, with a heavy heart. Edward went back to Cambridge and applied himself to his books. But Richard who was of a more determined character resolved to escape from the trammels of the University and carve out a career for himself, suited to his taste and inclination. Hesitation had vanished and he was fully resolved to adopt the career he longed for. So after spending many sleepless nights in forming plan after plan, he decided to get himself rusticated from his college. His opportunity soon came. A celebrated steeple chaser Oliver the Irish man came down to Oxford and the sporting undergraduates were most enthusiastically eager to see him ride. The college authorities forbade their

being present at the races at which he was to display his riding feats, and announced a lecture at the very time, the races were to take place. This lecture all the under-graduates were ordered to attend. This caused a mutiny amongst them. A number of high-mettled young fellows with Burton at their head, swore they would go to the races inspite of the prohibition and they carried out their resolve. The races were a delight and Oliver a hero, but next morning they were hauled over the coals and had to sit on the stool of repentance. Many of them took the moral castigation quietly and begged to be forgiven. But Richard was too stubborn and imperious-souled a youth to take the sermon on his delinquency, lying down. It was his opportunity of freeing himself from the hated University shackles and he took the fullest advantage of it. Instead of expressing his regret for what he had done, he boldly asserted it was no sin to be present at a race; and with amusing audacity began in his turn to lecture to the college dons and grey-beards on trust begetting trust and confidence begetting confidence, and sundry such hackneyed moral maxims and complained in injured tones how collegiate men had been treated like school children. His learned and reverent preceptors were nearly struck dumb by his boldness and self-assurance, and so while the other culprits were only rusticated, he was expelled permanently from the college and ordered never to return to Oxford. With a polite bow, he retired, not a little inwardly gratified that he had gained his end.

By this bold step he not only freed himself from a life he disliked, and a profession he hated, but his brother

Edward too, for his father whose feelings were shocked by what he considered his elder son's disgrace, ceased to press the younger to persevere in studies, for which he had no inclination, although he was going on steadily enough in them for the time being, inspite of his disappointment to enter the Army. As soon as the father recovered from the shock of the news of Richard's permanent rustication, the boy received a kind letter from home, giving him permission to choose his own career. Overjoyed at this, he left Oxford and obtained a commission in the 37th Regiment, a gift from Lord Fitzroy Somerset, afterwards Lord Raglan. His brother soon after chose the same career and joined the army.

It was fortunate Richard preferred the Indian Army to the Queen's. There was no difficulty in obtaining a commission in the Indian Army then, for it was the time of the First Afghan War and there had been a wholesale slaughter of British Officers and men by the Afghan Prince Akbarkhan. Richard was posted to the Bombay command. He preferred Bombay because he thought it would afford him the best conditions for studying the languages and the people, conditions of which he made such excellent use afterwards. On 12th June 1842, he bade farewell to friends and relations and embarked at Greenwich in the sailing ship *John Knox* bound for India via the Cape. The Afghan disaster which occurred in the beginning of 1842, when out of 16 thousand men only a solitary soul, Dr. Brydon, escaped to convey the dismal tidings was expected to be fully avenged in a long campaign and he hoped therefore to take an active part in the fighting and to win his spurs

and be mentioned in despatches and earn renown. So he dreamt on board and had his visions of Medals and stars. He therefore assiduously applied himself on the voyage to learn *Hindustani*, from 3 native servants, who were on board and keep up his sword exercise, while he filled up his lighter hours with shooting birds, and catching sharks, and flying fish. When he arrived in Bombay in October 1842 his dreams were shattered and his hopes were dashed to the ground. His visions vanished and he led the drab quiet life in a cantonment. Lord Ellenborough had succeeded Lord Auckland, the avenging army had done its work, the return march from the Khyber Pass had begun and the Afghan campaign was over.

In Bombay he lived in a thatched bungalow, somewhere between the existing Churchgate and the Marinelines Railway stations. As he had not much society he spent most of his time in sport and in learning languages. He engaged a venerable Parsi by name Dossabhoj Scrabji, who had coached a generation of young civil and military officers and studied *Akhlak-i-Hindi* and other *Hindustani* books with him. Burton made such rapid progress under him and liked the man so well that he became his life-long friend. The tutor fully reciprocated the kindness and cherished the memory of the pupil all his life and always quoted him as an extraordinarily apt student. In his quaint speech he spoke of Burton as one who could learn a language 'running'. At the end of six weeks, orders arrived for Burton to join the 18th Bombay Native Infantry then stationed at Baroda. So he purchased a

fine Katiyawar pony, a gallant little beast with black stripes, who did him excellent service and subsequently at the reviews and races succeeded in greatly distinguishing itself. He also engaged a goanese cook *Salvador Gomes* who became a sort of companion to him, and served him long. He went from Bombay to Baroda in a native craft, halted at Diu, Dwarka, Bassein, Somnath, Surat and the Bay of Cambay, for that was the mixed route, then, by sea and land from Bombay to Baroda. Then followed a few days march on his 'Katiyawar' pony before he reached Baroda.

Baroda now the second city in Guzerat and third or fourth in the whole Presidency was then a cluster of low huts and tall houses fantastically painted, a shabby palace and a dirty bazaar. There Burton lived in a bungalow not unlike a cow-shed which while it 'kept out the sun, let in the rain', and kept up the study of Arabic and *Hindustani*. Although he had two *Munshies*, they could not keep pace with him. As military duties were light, he had plenty of time for linguistic study and sports. He would have remained in Baroda for a long time, had not affairs in Sind developed in such a way as to lead to conquest and annexation and a demand for his services in the "Unhappy valley". The battle of *Measee* was fought on 21st February 1843. Sir Charles Napier with a small mixed force of Indian British Troops had routed the army of the Amirs of Sind. On 22nd March followed the battle of *Dabba*. Sind fell into the hands of the English and Napier rose to the height of his fame. In April 1843, Burton obtained 2 months'

leave to pass an examination in Hindustani at Bombay. With the help of Dossabhoj the old Parsi coach, he worked up the smallest details of the language and on 5th May passed first out of 12. Leaving Bombay he rejoined his Regiment on 12th May. Having mastered Hindustani, he next tackled Guzerati with the assistance of a Nagar brahmin by name Hemchand. He took also elementary lessons in Sanscrit from a Pundit a sort of half priest and half school master. Under this pair of teachers, he became so well versed with the ritual and practices of Hinduism that he was allowed to wear the 'Janeo' the Hindu sacred thread, of the twice born, by his Hindu tutors. He visited Bombay again in August 1843, for an examination in Guzerati and was again crowned with success. He was made Interpreter to his Regiment, and this added somewhat to his income.

The 18th Bombay Native Infantry to which he was attached was ordered to Sind and Burton returned from Bombay, just in time to join in the farewell festivities in honour of his regiment. After a slow march and equally slow sail his corps embarked for Karachi on the East India Company's steamship "*Semiramis*". When Burton saw the sand coast for the first time at Karachi, after the verdant lawns and green meadows of Guzerat, he was inclined to exclaim like the romantic lover in Tennyson's *Locksley Hall*.

"Oh the dreamy moorland! Oh
the barren barren shore"

A regular desert; a fringe of low sandy coast, a bald and glaring waste, with quivering palpitating heat, shimmering and glancing over its dirty white, dirty brown, and dirty yellow surface.

Karachi in 1844, was little more than a large village. Streets there were none, the wretched houses with their overhanging balconies and tumble down projections, almost meeting over the surface of the lanes. Nothing could exceed the filth in the town. Sewers did not exist. Even the worst parts of the present *Bhislitiwara* and *Runchore* and *Pinkha Lines* of Karachi, are better. The harbour, when the tide was low and had ebbed, was a net-work of mudflats and sand-mounds. In the cantonment however, outside the native town, the British Officers had put things in shape. There were large barracks, spacious lines, two churches, mess houses and every convenience for the lodging of troops. Sir Charles Napier lived here with a large staff and the garrison consisted of 5 thousand men. European and Indian. The one sight of Karachi then was Mungho or Mugger Pir, which Burton visited, full of hundreds of alligators. And a constant source of frolic and excitement for the younger officers and subalterns was a ride to the "Alligator Pond" to bait and worry the ugly monsters and occasionally to get on their backs. One young officer Lt. Beresford of the 56th once actually crossed the pond, where hundreds of these huge brutes lay, skipping like a French school-girl or ballet dancer from the scaly back of one monster to another. He started by tightening fast his shoelaces, turned round to take a run at the bog, where the alligators dozed or wriggled, charged the spot like a gallant trooper and plunged into the pond walking from one animal's back to another's. Many were his narrow escapes, from lashing tails and snarling and biting jaws. Many a time did he tumble in the water, but at

last succeeded in crossing the bridge made by the monsters' back on *Terra firma* safe and sound, with an entire skin, though with a pair of trousers rent into rags. Another enjoyment of the subalterns at Karachi was a frequent race on the seabeach near the present Clifton and the Ghizree hillocks, right in the waves of the Arabian Sea, laying bets and dashing into its foaming breakers. On one occasion 12 of these subs, rushed into a tremendous and hollow surf, which curled as it approached the shore and burst into snowy foam. Of the 12 riders 11 were *hors de combat* and only one with difficulty retained his seat and won the bet. The eleven that fell were found either struggling in the waves or lying flat upon the sand or running over the hillocks vainly endeavouring to catch their frightened steeds.

After its stay for nearly a year at Karachi Burton's Regiment the 18th, was moved to Ghara a Lar village, thirty miles from Karachi, on one of the creeks of the Arabian Sea not far from the present railway station of Dobeji. Here were neither barracks nor bungalows, only 'dirty heaps of mud and mat hovels,' a waste of salt barren rock and sandy plains. At first the whole corps had to live in canvas. Burton lived in a single pole tent with a temperature of 120 F in the shade and he had to cover his table with a large wet cloth, and sit underneath it for the best part of the day. Even in this abominable weather, he started writing a portion of his book on Sind the "Unhappy Valley" and worked for an examination in *Mahratti*, which he passed in 1844. On his return to Karachi, deliverance came to him and he received an appoint-

ment which while materially augmenting his salary proved most congenial to him. He was gazetted an Assistant in the Sind Survey and Canal Department.

This was equally fortunate for Sind as it gave him excellent opportunities to tour over the province and become intimately acquainted with its history, its geography, ethnography, its dialects, its people and its institutions and gave it one of its most intelligent and informing historians. On 10th December 1844, he departed from Karachi, with a Survey party and camels to work at Fuleli and its continuation, the Guni river.

The country was a new one and so was its population. His duties compelled him to spend the cold season in wandering over the districts, levelling the beds of canals and making sketches for a grand survey. He was thrown so entirely among the people as to depend upon them for 'Society'. He collected a large stock of books with the increased pay he got as a Survey Officer and made the best use of them. After the first year when he found that he knew sufficient Persian and Arabic to be able to converse in them fluently and had learnt a little of the dialect of the Punjab which corresponds to the *Siraiiki* dialect spoken even now in the upper Sind Frontier district, he began the systematic study of Sindhi proper.

Now began some of his most romantic adventures and episodes in Sind. After the winter of 1845, during which he enjoyed some sport, specially hawking and which enabled him to write a book on Sind Falconary he returned northwards to Hyderabad,

passed through deserted Ghara and joined his head-quarters at Karachi. Here he became acquainted with one Mirza Ali Akbar who had been made a Khan Bahadur owing to his gallant conduct at the battles of Meanee and Dubba. He lived just outside the Camp in a bungalow which he had built for himself and where he lodged a friend Mirza Daud, a fine Persian scholar. Burton became very friendly with these two Persian Munshis and with their assistance he thoroughly studied the manners and customs of the Province, by dressing like them and living in their midst. Burton's example is one which the modern British Officer might with advantage copy, at least to a limited extent, specially Civilian Officers with administrative duties and thereby render themselves thoroughly accessible if they wish fully to understand the psychology of the people in their charge and to get at their heart. Ensconced in his bungalow where his chuprasis scare away or beat off those who on account of poverty or helplessness require most to be heard by him, he generally remains ignorant of the real state of his people and gets his information through the turbid current of his police and other under-lings or through some fawning or favour-seeking 'gentry' which dances to the official tunes.

Burton got at the true conditions of native life and their joys and sorrows. He had an excellent faculty of imitation. So disguising himself as a Sindhi he opened a shop at Karachi in the Old Town Quarter. When tired of his shop in the dirty, close and ill-smelling town he set himself as a half Arab half Persian pedlar and roamed about the country followed by his servants carrying the goods on their backs, reminding one of

those merry-hearted, generous-dispositioned, linguistically gifted itinerant dealers to be found in the inimitable stories of the Arabian Nights in Haroon-Al-Rashid's days. He called himself Mirza Abdullah Busheri, a vendor of fine linen, calicoes and muslins. He wore a long beard, his long hair fell on his shoulders, and his face, arms and neck were dyed with the aromatic oriental henna. Thus shaped and attired, he sought and obtained admission, even into the sacred harems of the wealthy and aristocratic in Sind. The timid villagers sometimes collected in crowds to see the merchant in oriental dress riding spear in hand and pistols in his saddle bags, towards the little camp near their Settlement. When he arrived at a strange town he first secured a house in or near the bazar and in the evening collected a crowd and had long chats with it. Now and then he rented a shop and fitted it with dals and molasses, tobacco, ginger or coloured sweetmeats. The villagers however found that this strange vendor's shops never prospered and he invariably lost money on them. Crowded though they were with customers, they discovered that the polite Mirza was in the habit of giving the heaviest weight for their money to all the ladies specially the pretty ones who came to it. Sometimes he passed his evenings in a mosque, listening to the poor shabbily clothed students droning their lessons or lying at full length on the mosque floor muttering and mumbling verses from the Koran or lines from some theological book with a little dirty oil lamp by their side "shedding a dim religious light". Often would he sit discussing theology with the Mullas

At times he would enter a house where a marriage feast was progressing uninvited or when dance and music were going on at a kindly festival and sit quietly listening and watching as an unbidden and extraordinarily observant guest "a child taking notes". Sometimes he would play chess with a native friend and be most orientally absorbed in it. Occasionally he visited the professional Mahomedan women match-makers' houses and gathered from them a budget of social news and scandal and gossip.

It is perhaps known to very few in Sind that Burton had a most romantic affection for a Sindhi girl of high Persian birth; when he was living in Sind an attachment as tender and true as ever felt by mortal man—a real *Romeo's* love for a worthy *Juliet*—reminding one of a page from Colonel Meadows Taylor's novel of *Sita*. This attachment occupied a unique place in his life. He met her in one of his rambles and was able to converse with her by means of his disguise. Her personal charms, her pretty speech, her single-hearted devotion to him impressed him with a feeling of admiration for her bordering on idolatry and he spent the full force of his warm heart and fervid imagination upon this bright-eyed, dark haired beloved. Never had he loved so before never did he love so after. He adored her like a *Purdu* and she loved him like a *Sasui*. He would have married her and brought her home to his family for she was as good as she was beautiful, had not the cruel hand of Fate struck her and snatched the dainty flower from his hands and extinguished the brightest joy of his life. From the day of

her death he became subject to fits of melancholy. He could hardly bear to speak of his awful loss and the gentlest sympathy hurt him. His relations with her in spite of his passionate love were honourable till her death. He composed after some time a *Kasida* or short Persian Poem in which he embodied the bitter cry of his heart. He wrote:—

'Mine eyes, my brain, my heart alas are sad
Sad is the very core of me;

All wearies, changes, passes, ends
Alas the birth-day's injury.

Thus ended an idyll which had so sad, so fatal a termination.

In November 1845, after burying his beloved he started with Colonel Walter Scott his superior officer in the Survey Department for a three months' tour in the north of Sind. They travelled by high road to Kotri and then crossed by boat to Hyderabad. After a week spent there they went up the right bank of the Indus towards the extreme western frontier. At Larkana a letter from John Napier announcing that as many of the Assistant Surveyors as could be spared might join their regiments if ordered on service. This was the first official notice of the great Sikh War that was renewed, received by British Officers in Sind. Richard Burton was wild to take part in the fighting though the loss of the lucrative appointment in the Survey Department made a considerable difference in his income. He applied himself at once to preparation for the campaign, persuaded Colonel Scott with some difficulty to forward his resignation as Assistant Surveyor and on 23rd February 1846 marched with his corps to Rohri. But he gave up his well-remunerated post in vain. The Sikh War was soon over and a kind of peace was already made. So

Burton had to return to Sind, sadly disappointed, with his corps. From Multan to which it had marched he returned *via* Subzal Kote, Khanpur and Bahawalpure to Rohri and after a few days' halt there he passed to Khairpur and after 17 Marches reached the regimental headquarters at Tando Mahomed Khan on the Phuleli Bank. In the hot season of 1846, there was severe cholera in Sind and the European Regiment suffered terribly. Burton luckily escaped it but was laid up with a low malarial fever for nearly 2 months. This determined him to have a change and a holiday. He therefore applied for and obtained 2 years leave to reside in the Neelgries and for the time being turned his back on Sind. He travelled first by boat to Goa, then to Calicut and then followed the seashore to Pooranee on horse-back and from there he went by a long route along the Malabar coast towards Matypolliam and thence to Ootacamund. The change greatly benefitted him at first but unfortunately he now got a bad attack of ophthalmic rheumatism owing to the damp chilly hills which pestilently clung to him and caused him much trouble and annoyance. So he resolved to get his leave cancelled and rejoin his regiment in Sind and burn out the effects of the chills with its dry, sultry and sunburnt winds.

The return journey did him good. He reached Bombay in October 1847 and here he passed an examination in Persian coming first again out of 30 candidates, and was complimented by his examiners. His linguistic successes at this time attracted the notice of the Government and he received an honorarium of one thousand rupees (then regarded a very handsome reward for languages) from the Court of Directors.

In 1848 another war with the Sikhs seemed imminent and a report was circulated that Sir Charles Napier would take the command. Colonel Walter Scott and many brother officers were ordered to be in readiness for the field, and Burton as usual excited by the war fever applied to accompany this force as Interpreter. He had passed in six native languages and was studying two more, but he had no friend at court, none in authority to back up his request. So he was rejected in favour of a much inferior man who had hardly one-sixth his linguistic knowledge. This greatly disheartened Burton. His rheumatism came on again and he was strongly recommended a change to Europe. So he never reached Sind and did not see it again till nearly quarter of a century later when in 1875-76 he paid it a hurried visit during his winter tour in India on six months' leave while he was Consul at Trieste, the result of which was his amusing book "Sind Revisited". With strength fast failing now he managed to get as far as Bombay. His health completely broke down at Bombay and he was put on board the "Eliza" sailing for England in an almost insensible condition. The voyage however restored his health and he reached England safe. He had taken a Mahomedan servant with him by name Allahdad clad in picturesque Asiatic costume, heavy turban and baggy trousers who nursed him on board like a mother and very grateful was Burton for all his care and attention.

After a stay of nearly 4 years in Europe he returned to Asia in other capacities than as a British Military Officer, but as his work and career lay now in regions wholly unconnected with Sind, and his destiny had no bearing on it. I shall not

pursue the narrative further. Burton's life and labours were now in fields far remote from our little "desert" province, in Arabia, Egypt, Palestine, Central and East Africa, the American Rockies and Southern America and on the Congo Lake, Tanganyika and the sources of the Nile. His hair-breadth escapes, adventures, his discoveries and explorations, his *incognito* travels and his pilgrimages relate to countries with which our province has so little racial or ethnographic affinity that an account of them may not interest the readers of this magazine at all. I trust those whose interest in him is sufficiently roused by this short and simple narration of a remarkable personality with its singular heroism, its extraordinary linguistic gifts, its passion for adventure, its genuine oriental outlook and sympathy, its indefinable charm of manner, and its essential lovability of character, will read his life in detail in his longer biographies. He said in his books on Sind some hard and unkind things about Sind and the Sindhis. Some of these were not true or only half-truths. But that should not make our appreciation of his genius and his great qualities as a historian and a traveller any the less or make us fail to recognize the true nobility of his purpose and character.

By his second visit to Sind he renewed his knowledge of the province and revived old memories but so much time had elapsed, since he served in it as a young military officer and such changes had taken place that a much longer study was necessary to give him a correct perspective. His visit was too short and hurried for it.

Burton was a man of versatile talents and though neither a warrior nor a conqueror, neither a statesman nor a pro-

consul, he had all the qualities of such and would have made an ideal ruler of an alien people, specially oriental. As a traveller and explorer his genius was remarkable. He was cast in the mould of those rigorous and resourceful Britishers who have colonized or conquered new and strange lands and carved out empires in different parts of the globe, as much by their valour and determination as by an intuitive faculty to understand the people in their charge and to adjust their policies and governments in conformity with their sentiments and wishes and his knowledge of these greatly helped him to understand the people with whom he had to deal.

Burton saw a great deal of the rough and humble side of life. He was not one of fortune's favourites. The rewards and honours that came to him were slow or tardy. The most comfortable or the best paid official appointments that he received were the Consulship at Damascus which meant only a salary of a thousand pounds a year and a sumptuary and office allowance of about two hundred pounds and the Consulship at Trieste which he held for about 20 years in all, and which meant a salary of £ 600 and an office allowance of £ 100. These would be regarded now as a very paltry and poor compensation for a man of such pre-eminent ability and talents or for services such as he rendered to Government. One mark of Royal favour was received by him late in life in the year 1885 (when honour generally ceases to charm), when through the good offices of Lord Salisbury, the Queen conferred a K.C.M.G. on him as a reward for his services. Burton appreciated the honour not for its intrinsic value but on account of the exceptionally kind and generous

terms in which it was conveyed and the consciousness that his work was not viewed with disfavour by his Sovereign.

Burton's best reward however came from his writings. Before leaving a world which had often proved so dark and dreary, a flood of sunshine came from an unknown region. He had no idea of the good fortune that was in store for him. He wrote over 50 books besides numerous articles for the magazines and scientific societies but most of them did not bring him much money. The Translation of the "Arabian-Nights" completed in old age however proved an *Eldorado*. The history of this "revelation of orientalism" as it is happily styled by a biographer, which was published in the last days of his life, though it had taken him with frequent intermission, 32 years to work, brought him twelve thousand pounds.

The Marvellous display of linguistic inflexibility, the exquisite flow of language, the wonderful erudition displayed in the notes, captivated the critics as the vina of the charmer. "Never had a writer enjoyed a nobler triumph, never had a writer deserved more".

This soothed the travel-worn, much tired, sorely buffeted spirit. He became brighter and happier and wished to follow this publication by another of the same kind, giving further insight into oriental life, but when it was two-thirds finished, death struck him down. A sum of six thousand pounds was offered for it but was never received. It was entitled the "Scented Garden" and contained all the old charm of Burton's narration, his beautifully adjustative phraseology, his pretty conceits and all the loveliness of oriental imagery. But except for a few small fragmentary manuscript, the work never saw the light of day, being burnt

by his own pious bigoted wife Isabel. At his death she took the papers from the desk, where he had carefully locked them, read page after page, which she probably only half understood and in a fit of Roman Catholic bigotry flung them leaf by leaf into the fire. The valuable treasure was thus irretrievably lost to the world.

Burton died on 20th October 1890 in Trieste of which he was Consul to the last. Previous to this he suffered from attacks of gout frequently and the heart become distressingly weak. On 19th October 1890 he seemed to feel somewhat better, laughed and talked in his usual fashion, worked at intervals at his translation of the "Scented Garden" and arranged his papers with singular neatness. When he retired for the night he assured Dr. Baker, who was in attendance on him, that he felt unusually well. Hardly had a couple of hours passed, when he grew uneasy, groaned and tossed from side to side. The doctor administered a remedy and the patient sank to rest but he again felt worse and found his strength fast ebbing away. Ether and chloroform were administered, but suddenly the breathing became laboured and after a strong struggle he fell back on his pillow and expired.

Thus passed this strong, patient, heroic soul away whose sinewy frame, masterful spirit, dauntless heart and rare industry and intelligence not only brought the East much nearer to the West and unlocked its mysteries and its literary treasures to it but added to the British dominions and revealed and laid bare dark unknown and unexplored regions and the races inhabiting them. The Sindhi might well cherish his memory as their historian, interpreter and as a world's great traveller and man of action.

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Lutfullah's Diary of his Experiences in Sindh

REPRODUCED FROM

"THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF LUTFULLAH,"

[NOTE:—A brief biographical sketch of Lutfullah was published in the last issue of "The Sindhian World." In this and the subsequent numbers are being reproduced all that this writer has to say about Sindh.—Editor, S. W.]

At midnight, on the first of December,† we sailed with a fleet of vessels carrying an English regiment. By the grace of the Almighty God, on the 3rd we passed the "Ghori kichar," an island of sand. A couple of monstrous sharks, each of them in size somewhat bigger than an elephant, came near our vessel; they seemed to play with each other, passing under our vessel and going round it, in which act they often gave a shake to our boat, which distressed us and roused the spirit of our Tindal. He said to me "It is true these brutes are sometimes dangerous to the vessels; but have no fear, they are as cowardly as huge; I will soon remedy the evil." Saying this, he came to the side of the boat and finding them floating along with us, began his remonstrances as if they understood his language: "You are kings of the sea, leave pursuing us, in the name of God and of the prophet Solomon. We are poor people, our vessel does not contain more than ten men; go, therefore, to the other vessels, they are filled with fat soldiers of the Honorable Company." Old Juma's words, instead of producing a good effect, made the animals more frisky and furious. They spouted* up water from their immense nostrils into our ship, in addition to the former annoyances, and played at "hide and seek" round the boat with new vigor, from seven till about a quarter past eight o'clock, a. m. Our good Tindal then, having lost all patience, took up one of his ballast stones, very sharp on one side, pronounced the name of God,

and Mung it with all his might against the bigger monster's head, inflicting a good blow, not unlike that of a hatchet. After the receipt of this compliment, the animal went down at once with his companion, without making its appearance again, and all of us jointly returned our thanks to the kind Providence for this narrow escape. I regretted much not having brought my gun with me.

"Ghori Kichar" is now a large sand bank, which, twenty years ago, was the site of Ghori Bandar, now all sunk below the wave.

On our approach to the aforesaid sand bank, Juma desired me to taste the water of the sea, which I did, and to my surprise found it on one side of the ship quite fresh and sweet, and on the other very salt. On inquiring the reason, I was told that the strong current of the Indus ran so far uninfluenced by the sea. We moored about nine o'clock p. m. ten miles off Vikkar Bar.

4th It being dead calm, the whole day was spent in reaching the bar. Here we found twelve British men-of-war, two steamers, and about one hundred *battelaks* at anchor, all of them bearing the British flag and containing soldiers and supplies. My friend the old Tindal passed close by a vessel newly wrecked upon a sand bank. I told him the wreck warned us not to come too near, unless we would share her fate; but the old pirate replied, that the Tindal of the boat must either have been blind or had some sinister

†1838.

*From this it is evident the Author's sharks were grampasses.

motive to wreck the vessel, for all the banks here were known to every boy of the coast. Moored at the bar for the night.

On the 5th we entered the mouth of the Indus, and on the 6th we arrived within seven miles of Vikkar. There being a small village on the left bank, I went ashore to see it. Visited the head man of the village. Conversing with him through the old Tindal, whose mother tongue was Sindhi. The old chief's replies to our queries were so loud that at first I thought he either took us to be deaf, or was offended at our intrusion. On asking the reason, Juma told me that nothing was wrong, but that such was the custom of the country. These people seemed miserable beings, living in such huts as the villagers of India have for their cattle, without any partition. All members of the family—husband, wife, son, daughter-in-law, etc.—sleep in the same stall, upon one bed, the materials of which are no more than a mat spread over a little grass. Their food is a very coarse bread of rice, with fish, fresh or dry. They are very fond of tobacco and onions, for which articles the head man begged. I inquired about the system of taxation in his country, and he informed me that taxes were mostly taken in kind. The agriculture in general is confined to rice, which is produced in abundance. The cultivator gets one-fifth of the produce, the remainder being divided into two halves, one of which goes to the Government, and the other to the land-holder.

On the 7th I landed at the Camp at Vikkar, and was most hospitably received by my master and friend, Captain Eastwick.

The 8th I passed in exploring the village of Vikkar. It consisted of about two dozen miserable huts. Colonel H.

Pottinger arrived in the evening from Hyderabad.

On the 9th we removed our tents from the military camp, and pitched them near the Resident's. From this date I regularly commenced the performance of my duty. I had the pleasure of seeing Sikandar Khan, my old friend of Tulsi Sham, now Subahdar Major, the highest rank that a native soldier attains to. He now belonged to the Sappers and Miners. He introduced to me a friend of his, Mirza Ali Akbar, Captain S. Powell's Persian teacher. The young Mughal appeared to be a promising lad.

I began Sindhi grammar, which I found to be easy work. A man acquainted with the rudiments of the Asiatic languages could learn Sindhi with little trouble.

On the 14th, after the usual work in the office, I was engaged in an onerous task of counting and taking down the numbers of Government treasure boxes, one hundred and seventy-eight in number, arrived from Bombay. A horrible case of suicide occurred in the evening. An officer of Dragoons shot himself; cause unknown.

On the 15th I had the honour of being introduced to the Resident, Colonel Pottinger. At the first sight his abilities and resolute character were apparent.

I now began to mix with the Sindhis and learnt the idiom of the language by conversing with them. Idleness is the main feature in the Sindhi character. The Tindals of the river sat almost all day at the door of my tent, engaged in confabulation and disputes. The general theme of their discourse was Government affairs. One party remarked that the country was lost—the English would take it very soon. "The Talpurs themselves, especially Mir Subdar," said they,

"are to blame for being too friendly with the omnivorous English; they have taken all India; in the same way they will soon take this country." Another responded, "You are mistaken, my friends. Let the Talpurs of Hyderabad make themselves Christians; but fear not, as long as we have Shir Mohamed of Mirpur on our side. His late Highness Mir Karam Ali's widow has furnished, and will always furnish him with funds sufficient to carry on a perpetual war with all the Farangis in the world; and, if God pleases, we can be masters of all the gold and implements of war that they are laboring to bring into our country. Know you not the verse of our Holy Book, 'One true believer is sufficient to defeat ten infidels'?" A third white bearded Sindhi, with a profound sigh, observed, "Ah! my friends, your dream is somewhat too extravagant; you have never seen the tricoloured, viz., the white, brown, and dark devils, fighting jointly on a field of battle. Whilst in the service of H. II., the Peshwa, I was an eye witness of their hard fights in the Dakhan. Here is an unquestionable proof:" saying this, he tucked up his sleeve and showed a scar, which demonstrated a clear transit of a bullet through his left arm. He concluded by saying, "A man may over-match another, or perhaps two or three, if the contest is to be decided by the sword, but these cowardly Satans have no sword, and if they have any it is as blunt as your walking stick. They will kill you with their rascally shots whilst you are a mile or so off from them and then what is the remedy?" Such discussions by the side of my tent walls, often amused me much; and sometimes, rising from my seat, I intruded upon them, and preached to them in my broken Sindhi, that the English would not take their miserable country, producing only fish and rice, even if it were forced upon

them; that they had sufficient golden territories to govern and manage, and that they were staunch friends of the Amirs; that their forces were now passing through the country for the purpose of protecting their possessions in India, as well as the Amir's territory, from foreign aggression. To this they would reply with a chorus of laughter, "What you say, sir, may be true, but we are rude people; we cannot comprehend high policies of government. Ha! ha! ha!"

Being desired by my employer, I made acquaintance with a Sindhi Hindu merchant, Naomal, of Karachi, who made himself very useful to the British authorities in Sindh. He visited me every now and then, and tried his best to supply the wants of our army. He was a wealthy man, had a large family consisting of a father, six brothers, and a number of women and children. He was also a man of consequence and influence in Lower Sindh.

On the 19th December happened the Idu'l fitr, it being the first of the month Shauwal. 'This is a joyous festival in the Mohamedan world, as it concludes our Lent. But there being no Mohamedan priest with the army, I was obliged, at the request of some friends, to act as one; and, although out of practice for many years, I led the prayers and delivered the sermon to the congregation, composed of the Mohamedan horsemen and footmen, etc., of the Company, and received the usual fee in a turban and scarf, which cost about forty rupees, subscribed by the commissioned officers.

In these days we had often false alarms of Shir Mohamed's giving us a night attack. On the night of the 20th all the men were kept on the alert, and officers patrolled all the night by turns. I noticed that the cocks in this province seemed

superfluously religious, as, in addition to their morning and afternoon calls, they took two hours of the night more for crowing, i. e., they began the surplus duties at eight and ended at ten p. m. This untimely crowing is considered an ill-omen in India and Persia, and such over officiousness of the bird would cost him his life there, but the Sindhis are indifferent about it.

Visited the village of Ghorabari, about one mile off. It is considered a large village because it consists of one hundred miserable butes. The river in this part of the province, at this cold season, is about a fathom and a half deep. Its width too, in general, is not more than two hundred and fifty yards. The water is muddy, mixed with sand, according to the character of the soil here.

On the 23rd, we were glad to hear of orders for marching next day towards Tatta, and sent off all our baggage with that of the army. In the morning, striking our small tent, as we were going to mount our horses, my master was ordered by the Resident to stay where he was until some arrangement for more camels of burden was made, as the demand for them was on the increase. The 24th passed in making arrangements about the camels, but something remained to be done on the next morning. I slept in the same tent with Captain Eastwick. The cold was intense; I had never felt so cold in India. We had to content ourselves with very unpleasant lonesomeness. The day before, we were in the midst of an army of ten thousand men, and now we had with us but two peons and two Sindhi grooms. We pitied our four attendants who were shivering with cold, and asked them to sleep with us in the tent, but they on no account would overstep the bounds of respect, and slept close to the tent walls. After the day's

work we had neither servant nor provision to satisfy the cravings of hunger. Luckily, I had obtained some dates and half a cake of the coarse Sindhi rice bread for a few pice. Upon these articles we made our dinner. To my master it proved a most palatable meal, and to me better than dainties I afterwards tasted in Mivart's Hotel, London. He said his grace like a good Christian, and I returned my thanks to Him who overlooks our faults and supplies our wants more than we deserve. I made a trial of my good companion at this time, making the following remark: "We must not thank Heaven for bad meals, for if we do, it will never furnish us with better." At this he smiled, and observed, "Let the badness of what we have dined upon be proved first, and then we shall argue on further." Thus we beguiled our time in conversation until he was fast asleep; and then I, having enjoyed my cheroot, went to my bed.

The 25th of December, the birthday of the prophet Jesus Christ, is a holiday of rejoicing to all the Christian world. Early on the morning of this day we were roused from our sleep by two officers, Mr. Jenkins and Captain Ward, just arrived from Mandavi. They asked Captain Eastwick to guide them out to overtake the army; but the remaining part of the compact with the owners of the camels requiring his stay a few hours more, he ordered me to go on with these officers, himself remaining alone to conclude the affair.

We galloped on to Somria, a miserable hamlet of thirty butes, about twelve miles distant, where we overtook the army. Captain Eastwick likewise arrived in the afternoon, successful. Our next march with the army was a long one of twenty miles, to Karampur, consisting of about fifty butes, situated on this side of a

branch of the Indus. On the other side is the village of Ghulam Ka Got, of the same size.

On the 27th we halted, and the 28th brought us to the ancient city of Tatta. Having marched early in the morning, we reached the halting place at Makalli, about two miles from the town, at nine o'clock a. m. Our road this morning was partly sandy and partly stony and uneven. It passed through the ruins of Kalankot, about two miles from this. The fortifications of this remarkable place appeared to be very old and strong. The materials are mortar and baked bricks, which, at this remote period of time, seem quite new, and as strong as stone. In these heaps of ruins certain signs of antiquity, such as old coins, etc. are sometimes found by the inhabitants, and sold for a good price.

On the 30th, it was cloudy, tempestuous, and bitterly cold; so much so that, in the morning when I got up to perform my ablutions, I found the water congealed in the vessel, so was obliged to purify myself with the dust. This being Sunday, I had no office work, and therefore repaired to see the city.

The town of Tatta has no city walls, and great part of it is in ruins. The inhabited houses are about ten thousand. The markets are narrow and the streets filthy. Most of the inhabitants are weavers. Long silken scarfs (called *lungis*) and blankets are manufactured here better than in upper Sindh. The fair sex of this town, and indeed of all Sindh, are in general very plain, and very clumsily dressed. Mills for grinding grain and expressing oil, are worked by camels. There are upwards of four hundred mosques in the city, but almost all of them are going to decay.

Visited the Grand Mosque (Jama Masjid), begun by Shah Jahan, in 1057

A. H. (A. C. 1647), and finished by Aurangzeb in 1072 A. H. (1661 A. C.) as I found by the inscriptions. The edifice is a magnificent one, about two hundred yards long by one hundred broad, built with baked bricks and mortar. The inner plaster is glazed in white and blue colors. The whole site is roofed with one hundred domes, every one of them painted in a different style from another. The inscriptions carved round the great arch of stone, and those upon the two date stones, are excellently done in large letters. In short the whole scene presents a picture of beauty and solemnity to the spectator.

The bricks and earthenware of this city are very strong and durable, I believe owing to the peculiarity of the soil, which is a composition of white clay and sand. The houses in general are single storied and built of mud and flimsy timber, flat-roofed, clay only being spread over the upper frame; and partitions plastered with mud are the walls. There are a few houses of double stories built of bricks, belonging only to very rich individuals. Happening to meet a very handsome Arab, by name Saiyid Mohamed, of the sacred city of Madina, in the Market Place, I made his acquaintance, and visited the great priest of the city, Makh-dum Shaikh Abdullah along with him. Both of these men had great influence in the city, the former on account of his birth, and the latter for his station in life. Passed two hours with these gentlemen in conversation. Saiyed Mohamed travelled through Baghdad and Persia for the last three years, leaving his *kharas* to accumulate, this being one fifth of the property of all the heterodox community of the Shiah sect, paid to him as a religious fee. He has thus enriched himself like a Jew. He speaks

Persian fairly enough for an Arab, for Arabs are naturally bad linguists. But my best is a man of learning and good breeding. He has a large and beautiful library, containing many standard works both in Arabic and Persian.

On the 1st January 1839, a mission, consisting of four or five officers of rank of the court of Hyderabad, having arrived in the camp, was received in the Resident's tent by Sir John Keane and Colonel Pottinger. The amity and friendship between the two governments first being talked of, some differences and discontent of their Highnesses, the Amirs, exuded from the discourse of the Ambassadors. The meeting was then adjourned, on their full consent to afford us all the aid in their power for the progress of the army.

On the 4th I obtained leave to explore the Hill of Makalli near the camp. I proceeded early in the morning and amused myself till four o'clock p. m. This celebrated hill is situated at the distance of about one mile from Tatta. The range runs from west of the town to north, being eight miles long and under one mile broad. Its average height is fifty-five feet. The name is said to be derived from that of a fisher-woman who had her shop there in days of yore. This small hill contains about five hundred domed, and innumerable unroofed, tombs. It is a well populated city of silence. I had time enough to see only fourteen edifices as follows:

1. Idgah, a splendid mosque where all true believers gather together twice a year, and perform the divine service of the two holy days. The mosque was built by Yusuf Khan, governor of Sindh. Its inscription is in beautiful large Naskhtalik characters, as follows:—

"Yusuf Khan, the powerful lord, erected this place of worship as high as his fortune. The year of its finishing is found by Cherubim—the

temple of Makkah for the virtuous, 1013 A. H., 1633 A. C.

2. The tombs of the two Vazirs—Mirza Jana and Mirza Ghazi. Dato, 1095 A. H., 1683 A. C.

3. A grand mosque, built by Tughral. 1090 A. H., 1679 A. C.

4. Tombs of Mirza Isa and Mirza Inayatullah, two governors of the place. Magnificent edifices of yellow marble, beautifully carved, with flowers in bas-relief, and surpassing all the buildings of the place. The inscription gives the year of 1055 A. H., 1645 A. C.

5. The tomb of a Minister. 1048 A. H., 1638 A. C.

6. The tomb of a Nawab. 966 A. H., 1558 A. C.

7. The tomb of Pir Asad, the Kazi, 9 feet long. Era illegible.

8. The tomb of Saiyid Abdullah, son of Saiyid Abdul Kadir Gilani, the great saint of Baghdad.

9. The tomb of Mirak Mohammad. 1050 A. H., 1640 A. C.

10. The tomb of Shaikh Zia. 1129 A. H., 1619 A. C.

11. The tomb of a king, name illegible. 1109 A. H., 1697 A. C.

12. The tomb of Jam Ninda and Tamachi, the governors of the Summa tribe, of yellow marble. The building contains three tombs. 925 H. A., 1510 A. C.

13. The tomb of Baba Isa Langotiband. 920 A. H., 1514 A. C.

14. The tomb of Saiyid Ali Shirazi, the Saint of the Jokhia Sindhi tribe. 1190 A. H., 1776 A. C.

Amongst my official duties I had the special honor to translate the draft treaty of the thirteen articles now about to be enforced upon the Amirs of Sindh. This task I performed in ten hours, sitting up all night. In the morning the work was taken to the resident, who held the English draft (in his own handwriting, very difficult to read), in his hand, and ordered me to read the translation. This was found to be correct, and met with the Resident's approbation. Captain Eastwick gave me a present of five hundred rupees out of his own pocket as

a mark of his approbation of my services, and the Resident promised me a higher reward.

On the 5th at five o'clock, p. m. our guard killed a Biluch who was taken prisoner for selling liquor in the camp, and was consequently ordered to be flogged. Poor devil, he committed the crime without knowing the retribution. After he was taken to the quarter-guard, he began to wield his sword and shield (of which he ought to have been dispossessed), and inflicted three cuts upon the sentry, who parried, in the best manner he could, with his firelock, the butt end of which was cut in two. The prisoner then attempted to escape, and had got about five hundred yards from the guard, with the naked sword and the shield in his hands, when, passing between the tents of Sir John Keane and Colonel Macdonald, three muskets were fired at him: the ball of one of them, passing through his side, brought him down dead upon the spot, and thus he escaped the flogging.

Rumours of our camp being surprised at night were again prevalent. Several camp followers had been plundered near Lakpat, by a party of twenty-five armed Sindhis.

On the 16th Captain Eastwick was ordered to Hyderabad, so we prepared ourselves to start, and the next morning we proceeded to the ferry, about two miles off, whence we embarked on board the *Suake*, a small steamer. Here Captain J. Outram joined us. It was a very cold morning, it having rained much all last night. We sailed up about twenty miles during the day, and moored near a village. Passed several Shikargahs, or hunting seats of the Amirs. These are large tracts of forest land by the river side, fenced all round, containing all sorts of game.

After steaming and sailing for four days, we reached the port of Hyderabad, on the morning of the 20th. The view of the hills and the country on both sides of the river, is excellent all along. Flocks of large birds, with rosy hued plumes, were seen every now and then floating on the water. On the morning of the 18th we saw a large alligator fast asleep on the right bank, within musket shot, and Captain Outram saluted him with a bullet which rebounded from his scaly back. But the compliment had only the effect of startling the monster from his sleep and sending him to the water.

A young nobleman, Dost Ali Khan, the son of Khairullah Khan, a near relative of the Amirs, came on their part to receive us. After the exchange of long complimentary sentences he departed, and we located ourselves at the Residency. Munshi Jeth Anand, the native agent of this place, was deputed to the court, to know when it would suit their Highnesses to receive the British representative and his companions. He brought answer on the 21st, that the Amirs could not see the British officers that day, as they were undergoing the bi-weekly operation of depilation.

On the 22nd, however, Mir Subdar Khan was foremost to send his confidential agent, by name Badru'd-din, to Captain Eastwick, with a secret message that he had from the first devoted himself to the British cause, and would ever be found most sincere in it. That he must not be held responsible for the acts of his cousins, and that he felt anxious to receive an assurance of the same nature on the present occasion from Captain Eastwick before seeing him. Upon this I was forthwith deputed to accompany Badru'd-din as a bearer of renewed assurances to His Highness.

After going somewhat more than three miles, we came in sight of the citadel of Hyderabad, of which I had heard so much. The near sight of it disappointed me. It is no more than a pentagonal fortification, built of baked bricks and mortar, irregularly bastioned, without any ditch, containing the families of the Amirs and their relations and dependants. In passing through the town we saw several parties of Biluchis sitting in groups with their pipes, and the extract of hemp under preparation before them. They scowled upon me and some reviled me in their language. "What do you say to this," said I to my friend Badrud-din, "Is this the way of treating foreigners in your country?" "Do you not know," replied he, "a jar exudes whatever it contains. These are vile soldiers from the country. They don't like Faringis, and taking you to be one of them, they are eating this dirt; turn therefore a deaf ear to these things, in the same way as the Resident himself does sometimes." Considering it expedient to follow my friend's advice, I did so, and entered Mir Subdar's palace and was duly presented to him. He was sitting upon a bedstead with his son Fath-Ali, a handsome boy of about ten, attended by a secretary and slave, in a large spacious room without any furniture. After I had ejaculated my salutation in the Mohammedan style, His Highness stretched forth his hand, which I touched with my right, and was going to take my seat upon the floor like the others, but was particularly desired to take a chair that was brought for the purpose. After compliments, I delivered my message, which His Highness heard with attention, and was satisfied. After this, some conversation upon the subject of the manners and customs of Europeans took place, and then I took my departure. A couple of Sindhi horsemen were

ordered to escort me to the Residency, and to protect me from the insults of the wild Biluchis. When I had got half way to our camp, another pair of horsemen galloped up, begging me to return for a moment, as the Amir wanted to speak to me. I returned and had to repeat my message, some words of which Mir Subdar, had not fully comprehended.

Having done this I took my departure and began to return to camp with my Sindhi attendants, when I saw my master in company with Captains Outram and Leckie, proceeding to the Court of the three Amirs. My presence also being requisite, I was desired to go along with the British representative. This was a day of hard work and starvation for me: I took only a piece of bread and a cup of tea when I left home in the morning, and the day was coming fast to an end, without any end to my business.

On arrival at the Darbar, we found the crowd of armed Biluchis and attendants so thick that I thought it was impossible to pass. Road, however, was made for the admission of the European gentry. As for myself I remained behind and could not possibly penetrate through the concourse. Captain Eastwick, fortunately thinking of me, when with the Amirs, turned his head a little and observed, "Here Lutfullah, take care of these papers." No sooner was this pronounced, than the attendants, breaking through the mob, took me upon their hands and in a minute conveyed me sliding over the heads of the multitude to my master, at whose elbow I seated myself and took down notes of the conference.

(To be Continued.)

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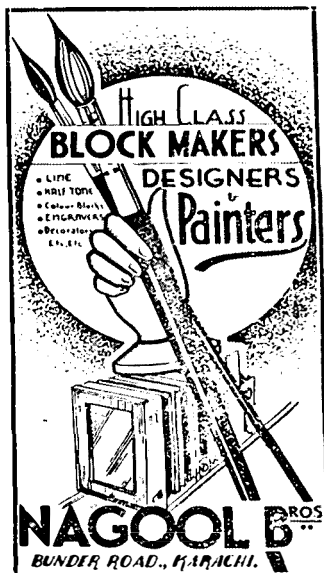
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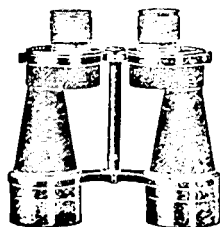
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Nao and his beautiful wife Muudhar, who lived in the days of Dalurai, were unhappy for they had no child of their own.

They both begged at the doors of saints and temples, wandered far and wide and prayed day and night for an issue. They heard of an old sage, well-versed in the Science of the Stars and came to him with gold and silver to be placed at his feet. After due obeisance, the good woman wept and begged of him to fulfil her life's desire. The sage, after a short meditation replied: "I have prayed to the Almighty and the prayer has been heard. You will be bestowed with a child, but her fate is joined to a Muslim."

Nao and his wife could not decide whether to be happy or unhappy. They returned home and anxiously awaited the birth of the child. Ten months past, Nao was blessed with a daughter.

Nao was anxious and worried as to what he should do with the new-born. He first decided to bury her alive but on the intervention of his wife Muudhar, agreed on a different course.

They dressed the child in the best infantile attire, tied a bag of gold and jewels to her leg, put a saffron mark on her forehead, and thus bedecked buried her in a wooden box along with a letter. Then Nao carried the box to the river and flung it in the rushing waters.

The box floated, and floated like a swan, by the grace of God, safe and

unruffled, till it reached Bhambore.* It was a city of big commerce and great renown. A washerman by name Lala Mahmud under whom over five hundred workers served in the profession saw the box nearing him.

He ordered the box to be taken out. His amazement at seeing it floating placidly was so great that in wild rapture, he exclaimed to his wife at a distance: "The box cannot contain wealth, as I have lot of it already. Methinks, it contains the fulfilment of our desires, O Zeenub! Come and let us open the box."

Now Mahmud also was childless. He was old and so was Zeenub. Zeenub had given up all hope of being a mother as all her prayers and entreaties, charities and ceremonies had remained unrewarded. They opened the box in the presence of a fakir by name Agan who was popular all over the town and was deeply devoted to Lala Mahmud. He at once took the fondling in his arms as it lay smiling in the box with its thumb in its mouth. He proudly proclaimed that even God dared not refuse the requests of a "Mast Kalandar" like him as he had repeatedly prayed that Zeenub be blessed with a child. Agan blessed the child and said: "The child is as beautiful as the moon, so let us call her Sasui."**

Zeenub took the child in her arms and kissed it again and again and Lala prayed in gratefulness. She fondled the baby when suddenly Lala's eyes fell on the bag tied to the baby's leg. On

* A flourishing city then, near Dabaji Railway Station, about thirty two miles from Karachi.

** Sas means moon. Sasui means moon-like.

opening it he found gold and jewels and a letter in it. None of them cared to look at the wealth as Mahmad anxiously read the letter: "This is a lawful child of a Brahmin begot of great sacrifices, but heaven has decreed otherwise. We give it back to Varuna, the God of the Seas, from whom it has come. We are well-to-do and we are not sending away the child empty-handed. Whosoever gets her will treat her well."

Finding the child to be lawful their attachment grew as the child grew. Mahmad brought up Sasui in all comfort and splendour. A palace was specially built for her, surrounded by lime and mango trees, rosebuds and lilies, where she passed her time, turning the spinning wheel bedecked with jewels and a handle of solid gold, in the company of her girl-companions.

Years passed by. Sasui is now eighteen. Sasui dreams. She dreams that a Baluch young man, as handsome as man can be, tall and stalwart, with large eyes and long hair, dressed in silk and velvet, a veritable prince has made love to her. She falls in love with him.

Sasui said to herself "Like a floweret of the field I passed my days and nights in dance and laughter. But now gone is my sleep and lost my appetite; my heart weeps and my body aches."

The same day Nao was deputed by his ruler to Bhambhore on State duty. He came to Bhambhore with his wife Mundhar and their retinue. One of the maid-servants while going through the bazaar heard the story of a girl found by a washerman from a box in a river eighteen years ago, and heard the people sing praises of her beauty in the choicest words. On return home she told Mundhar what she had heard and it at once occurred to Mundhar that the girl must be her own daughter. She came

post-haste to Zeenub and enquired of her daughter. Sasui had gone to play with her friends and by the time she returned, Mundhar told everything to Zeenub as to why they had left her to the mercy of the mad river. Sasui came and seeing her own features reproduced in the other woman sitting with her mother Zeenub, ran up to her saying "Mother, dear mother" and embraced her. Mundhar pressed Sasui to her breast and after exchange of tender affections, gave her a necklace valued at a million rupees, saying to Zeenub: "This is my present to Sasui for her wedding night." Bidding goodbye to everybody her last words were: "I should go immediately, for if Sasui's father comes to know that I had been to her, he will be greatly upset."

On the day of Sasui's dream a merchant arrived in Bhambhore. He brought a full caravan-load of wool and silk, dushnals and lungis, musk and perfumes and all the costly dainties of his native place.

Who was he? Punhu, the son of Jam Ari, of Kech Makran, a merchant prince of the place who came to Sind to fulfil fate's unerring law.

There was a famine in Kech Makran. People died there of starvation as ants die in rainfall. Babiho, one of the merchants, who had been to Sind a number of times, suggested to Jam Ari that Sind was flowing with milk and honey and if luxuries of Makran were exported to that place in return for grain and foodstuff it would be a great service towards enriching his coffers as well as saving the poor lives of his countrymen. To Jam Ari's eldest son, Punhu, he whispered "There dwells in Bhambhore a maiden by Sasui called. No man on earth but he alone deserved her fair hand." Punhu was aflame with love unseen.

Jam Ari liked Babilho's plan and ordered his son Punhu, who was accomplished in commerce, to get ready for the great expedition with all speed. The caravan arrived in Bhambhore amidst the tinkling of the camel bells, musk fragrance, song and laughter. Customs duty had to be paid and Sasui was the Customs Collector of Bhambhore appointed by the then Hindu ruler of the place.† Punhu went to pay her the duty.

No sooner did their eyes meet than the sharp arrows of Cupid pierced their hearts, but Sasui pretending to do her duty conscientiously and honestly demanded that the Custom Duty equal to the cost of the goods be paid to the State. Punhu was dumbfounded and entreated her thus "O fair damsel of the State, in my country a severe famine rages cruelly and I have come here to sell my luxuries to buy grain for those unfortunate ones. Have pity on them, O fair-hearted one."

Sasui replied "It is none of our concern. Your goods will be confiscated till the duty is paid." She would show no concession in the rate of the duty, nor give any facility in receiving payment.

Punhu thereupon in exasperation said "Better confiscate me along with my goods. I dare not return home." Sasui burst aloud "You have confiscated my heart before you have paid anything." Punhu replied "My Sasui, before our eyes met, I had given you my heart. The brandished spears of love have played havoc with me and I am happy."

Both sat down on the door-steps to plan their future. Sasui hit upon a plan and explained: "Though your hands be tender, pretend to be a washerman, by caste and profession before my father, for it is but proper and customary with us people that I should be married to a

man of our own caste." Punhu said "I shall do anything, even soathe the stars from the sky for you. But ininitiated as I am in this art of a washerman I shall tear to threads the costly garments of your father's rich clients. Then your father will be angry and our plan miscarry."

Sasui thereupon without a moment's thought suggested: "Insert a gold mohur in every clothe you wash and take it direct to the owners. It will work well and there will be no complaint."

Punhu presented himself in the garb of a washerman before Lala Mahmud and after due exchange of greetings *Salam Alekum* and *Malekum Salam*, said "O master of the great art! I live by washing too. I live in Kech Makran and Punhu is my name. Being fond of adventure I have left my place to take my chance here. I will do your washing on mere board and lodging as my return."

"Agreed" said Lala Mahmud, being so much impressed with his gait and form. With his tender hands Punhu did his work as best as he could, and acting on the advice of Sasui inserted a gold mohur in every clothe and thus impressed his master that he was a washerman of no mean merit.

Everyone of Lala's customers wanted his clothes to be washed by Punhu as he expected to get so much more than the cost of his clothes. Lala's work doubled in no time and Punhu became indispensable to him. To make sure that Punhu would always be with him he himself suggested to marry him to Sasui.

Sasui was duly given in wedlock to Punhu and *Nikah* performed, in great pomp and merriment. Both lived happily in Sasui's palace for a few weeks when who knew? their happiness was to be short-lived.

† Women had the same rights as men in those days and occupied equal positions with them.

Punbu's father, Jam Ari, who loved his son Punhu more than anything else in the world, could not bear the pangs of his separation. Every day found him weaker and weaker both in body and mind due to worry. The final shock came to him when news was brought to him that Punbu had permanently settled down at Bhambhore, after degrading himself and his princely ancestry by marrying a low washerman's daughter.

Wrath beyond measure, he at once sent a messenger to Punbu with the errand: "If you do not return post-baste, consider yourself as disowned and your father dead."

The messenger soon returned disappointed with a short reply from Punhu: "Father, there is no disgrace in marrying where one loves."

Cbuuro, Hoto and Noto, Punhu's three brothers in whose presence this disappointing reply was conveyed to Jam Ari, were red with anger and instigated their father to allow them to go to Bhambhore and they promised anyhow to bring back Punbu to his home.

With profuse benedictions from their father, the three brothers set out on their mission with royal pomp. Jam Ari in thanks-giving to the Almighty God proclaimed by beat of drum that on Punhu's return home, he would feed the whole Raj Mahajan of Kech Makran, to share his joy with his countrymen.

The three brothers donned their embroidered coats, wound round their heads mighty turbans, fastened round their waists their blue trousers, flung over their shoulders white scarves heavy with gold and silver lace, put on their camels bright saddle-cloths, bead necklaces and strings of bells, bade their father and mother goodbye and started

for the long journey with premeditated plans. They camped for the night with their caravan at Kahri Bela and sent a message to Puuhu through their most trusted companion "O dear brother, father and mother and your three brothers are exceedingly glad to receive the happy news of your marriage with the lovely maiden of Bhambhore. We are reaching your place tomorrow to bestow the blessings of your parents on the happy couple."

Punhu's joy knew no bounds when he got this message and anxiously waited to meet his brothers. Lala Mahmud, Zeenub and Sasui when informed of the pending arrival of the distinguished guests, in consultation with Punhu decided to accord to them a right royal reception and to hold a grand feast in their honour.

Next day the three brothers were received very warmly at the outskirts of Bhambhore, by Puuhu, Lala Mahmud and all their men. Due and proper greetings exchanged, they were brought in a procession to the palace.

Sasui was very much excited at the extraordinary event and she was all happiness when she learnt that her marriage with Puuhu was approved of by her husband's family. With all the womanly care and diligence she herself supervised arrangements for the evening feast.

Rich Indian carpets were spread in the hall, soft cushions were placed for the guests, a gorgeous *huka* with the choicest tobacco was kept for their pleasure, costly wines and delicious food were procured and prepared to make the occasion a grand success.

Master musicians and dancing girls were also requisitioned to lend charm to the occasion.

There was merriment in the whole gathering, wine was being freely served when Chunro saw the opportunity of acting upon his sinister plans. Punbu had left the gathering for a few minutes to see if the food was ready to be served, when Chunro put some *Dhatura* in Punbu's wine-glass. It was already a late hour of the night and ladies of the house were preparing to go to bed. Sasui due to the fatigue of the day had also become a victim to slumbers unawares. The musicians and dancing girls after playing their part had also departed after receiving rich presents from the guests.

On return Punbu joined his brothers in food and drink. The effects of *Dhatura* began to work upon him and he fell fast asleep. Quietly like guilty thieves, the three brothers lifted unconscious Punbu and leaving the hall rode on the waiting camels outside and at great speed made their way towards Kech Makrau.

The whole night the party rode on and on till at daybreak, when they had covered nearly half the distance, Punbu regained his senses. The wretched captive Punbu was out of wits at finding himself in the unholy grip of his brothers. Sad, very sad was he; he tore his clothes, beat his fevered head and in anger cursed his captors. His lips neither touched water nor would he partake of food. The brothers appealed to him in the name of their father but Punbu would not listen.

* And Sasui. It was midnight hour at Bhambhorc and Sasui startled awake from her cursed sleep. She called Punbu and called again. There was no reply. Punbu's cot was there but Punbu was gone. She called again more sweetly than before when suddenly it dawned upon her that Punbu could not be there.

She cried "My beloved, your Sasui calls you. If you do not reply to my call, I have no other resource but to die." But her calls remained unanswered. Lala Mahmud and Zeenub also woke up at her cries and after searching the house found to their distress that Sasui was right as the guests had bolted away with their precious prize.

They tried to console their daughter but in vain. She would say in all sadness "O my Punbu, I have no father, no mother, no relative but you. There is nobody to save me from the grave but you. Be kind and good and save me, for it is hard to die so young."

She struck her head with knotted stick and beat her soft breasts. Her mother entreated: "He was a bird from a strange land and flew back to his folks." Sasui replied: "I loved my husband's brothers for his sake and not for theirs. Nobody thought of me nor of my sorrow. Mother dear, you too do not realise how my heart weeps; mine are tears of blood." Then argued her father "These Baluchs are born and bred in treachery; let us have pity on them for they will go to hell." Sasui burst out: "Father, this world without Punbu is a hell for me, who cares whether their souls go to hell!" To the entreaties of her friend Raju she merely replied: "I trusted him and have lost him in my sleep, the cursed sleep. It is my fault, dear, and I must make penance for it. I will go in search of him and not return till I find him."

Bare-footed and bare-headed, with torn clothes on, she prepared to start on her quest and bidding goodbye to all, said: "Pray for me, my dear ones. Pray for me that where I seek my beloved I may not miss his track. I will search mountain passes, cross the valleys and marshes and I shall consider myself blessed even if I die in the search."

Her mother and father and all her friends were helpless to control her and she would not take any of them with her.

Filled with strange and unhappy thoughts, tired both in body and mind, she walked on and on. She sometimes sang in pain and sometimes wept in despair.

"Let me roam and roam alone, till I find him. I am not afraid of hard, strong and cruel hills, though they cut my feet with sharp stones as carpenter cuts his wood. Harho, Pubb, Vankar and Vin-dur mountains cannot soften my determination, whatever difficulties they may put in my way. These mountains do not know of my woe. If my feet refuse to walk farther, I will move on my knees; if my knees bleed in pain I will crawl on my elbows, but I will reach Punhu anyhow. If the hot winds inflame my eyes, my heart will weep instead. If wild animals attempt to devour me, I will entreat them in the name of Punhu to spare me. But alas! the whole nature seems to be my enemy. The mountain has made its passes insuperably difficult, the wind has blown off the footprints of Punhu's camels, the moon has not risen to brighten my way, the snakes and poisonous creatures in company of wild animals threaten me on every side, but my only hope is Allah and my love."

On the next day at noontime, Sasui felt thirsty and unable to move further. She struck her foot on the bosom of the ground and a fountain of cool crystal water sprang up from it. She sipped a little water and moved on.

It was sunset the next day when Sasui's eyes fell on a hut nearby, and hoping to get a clue about Punhu made her way towards it. An unruly inhabitant of the mountains, six feet and four

high with a bunchy-brush of a beard, red eyes smitten with dirt, shabbily dressed and bearing a lork in his hand, came out of it. Unsuspecting, the pure girl asked him if he had seen any camels pass by, the previous day. The Alpnhwar looked at her ravishing beauty with greedy eyes, for he had never seen such a one before. He made ugly gestures to her which made her whole body shiver with fear. She cried aloud to Punhu to save her but no answer came.

The Alpnhwar tried to drag her in his hut by force. Sasui loudly prayed to God. "Merciful Allah, Lord of Might, save me from this monster here. Give me a place to hide me in."

The hard ground beneath her feet quaked, hills and rocks were torn asunder, beasts and birds ran and flew in terror, and in the yawning gulf she fell, not in terror or despair but as in the arms of her protector. The reeling earth closed again and only a corner of Sasui's shirt remained visible on the surface. The goatherd stood with open mouth, surprised, overawed at the fury of nature and wonders of God. Full of repentance this brutal slave of passion raised a mound of earth at the spot.

Very soon Punhu, having given a go-by to his brothers, in wild despair reached the spot and stopping, asked the goatherd whether he had come across a woman of exceeding beauty. The goatherd as if dumb moroly pointed to the mound of earth. Punhu looked at it and saw the piece of cloth. Recognising it as Sasui's, he kissed it and kept it over his eyes. Thereupon a voice came from beneath the earth "Punhu, I am waiting for you."

The earth once again quaked as before and Punhu saw Sasui in all her resplendent beauty and jumped into the chasm and fell in her embrace for ever. The earth closed again leaving no trace of them but the immortal name of these two lovers enshrined in the hearts of men and in the poetry of Shah Abdul Latif.

The History of Cricket in Karachi

BY
J. NAOMMAL

(ALL INDIA TEST CRICKETER)

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Continued from page 107 of "The Sindhi World", Vol. I, No. 2.

The winners upto date are:—

Quadrangular.

1919	...	Hindus.
1920	...	Hindus.
1921	Drawn	{ Hindus. Rest.

Pentangular.

1922	...	Europeans.
1923	Drawn	{ Hindus. Parsis.
1924	...	Hindus.
1925	...	Muslims.
1926	Drawn	{ Hindus. Parsis.
1927	Drawn	{ Hindus. Europeans.
1928	...	Muslims.
1929	Drawn	{ Hindus. Muslims.
1930	Not played.	
1931	...	Muslims.
1932	Drawn	{ Hindus. Muslims.
1933	...	Hindus.
1934	Drawn	{ Hindus. Muslims.
1935	...	Hindus.
1936	Drawn	{ Hindus. Muslims.
1937	Drawn	{ Hindus. Muslims.
1938	...	Hindus.
1939	...	Muslims.

The credit for starting the above tournament goes to Messrs. F. G. Travers, G. J. V. Weigall, C. B. Rubie, R. S. Nihalchand Tikamdas, D. J. Jagus, Adamali Yusufali Alavi and J. J. D'Cunha. This tournament was also the stepping stone towards the formation of the Karachi Cricket Association (re-named The Sind Cricket Association in 1928) in 1924. This Association was mainly modelled on the Ceylon Cricket Association and was the first of its kind in India.

The following 14 clubs were its members from its inception and now the membership is over 40:—

1. Karachi Gymkhana.
2. N. W. R. Sport Club.
3. Karachi Bohra Gymkhana.
4. Bharat Social Club.
5. Young Muslims.
6. G. P. Association
7. Young Amils.
8. Karachi Parsi Institute.
9. Young Hindus.
10. 'A' Corps Signals.
11. Maratha Union.
12. Islam Sports.
13. Y. M. C. A.
14. Young Zoroastrians.

At a meeting of the above 14 clubs held on 19th March 1924, under the chairmanship of Late R. S. Nihalchand Tikamdas Vazirani, it was unanimously decided to form the Karachi Cricket Association (which was later changed on the 20th April 1928 to the Sind Cricket Association) to commence with the above mentioned clubs as Founders and the following gentlemen to form a Committee to draft the rules:

1. Late Lt. Col. C. B. Rubie.
2. " R. S. Nihalchand Tikamdas.
3. " Mr. J. J. D'Cunha.
4. " Mr. D. J. Jagus.
5. Mr. Adamali Yusufali Alavi.
6. " N. R. Cleaver (*Hon. Secretary*.)

The rules drafted by the above Committee were discussed and passed at a General Meeting held on 10th July 1924 and Late Lt. Col. C. B. Rubie was elected as the President.

The Association, like all public bodies, was subjected to much criticism, but it

rose above this, and carried on the work of raising the standard of the game by organising the tournament, inviting outside teams to play here, sending teams to other centres and generally dealing with all the matters affecting this great game. In fact the Association was on hard ground and was recognised as the ruling authority on local cricket.

Matches with Quetta Teams.

There are no actual records to show when Quetta and Karachi first met, but it is known that teams interchanged visits many years ago and in more modern days the Parsis regularly took a side to Quetta every year.

It was on 3rd August 1925, that the Association invited the Quetta Team to Karachi. The visiting side, captained by Major A. C. Bird, played 5 matches. This team only won one match against the Rest, and lost their matches against the Hindus and Mahomedans and drew the remaining two matches against Europeans and Parsis. They were a weak combination, but they started the round of regular visits and were a most popular side.

In 1926 they again visited Karachi but did not win a single match. They played 6 matches of which 1 was drawn against the Parsis while Europeans, the Rest, Hindus, Mahomedans and the Karachi XI won their matches very comfortably. Lunnock of the Quetta side certainly batted very well but the all round play of the Karachi teams was too much for the visitors. Mr. N. M. Dinshaw added another century to his long list and Gulam Mohamed with Mohamed Ibrahim bowled splendidly.

The Sind Cricket Association sent their first side to Quetta under the captaincy of Late Lt. Col. Rubie in August 1927. The side did not lose a

single match. It won 3 matches very easily and drew the other very much in their favour. Gulam Mahomed and Mahomed Ibrahim were unplayable. Gulam Mahomed, B. D. Shanker and Naoomal J. all scored excellent centuries. A. J. Holmes of Sussex was the only Home player to do anything.

The Quetta teams visited Karachi for the third time in 1928 and included General Sir Charles Harrington, G. O. C., Western Command and all Karachi Cricketers were pleased to welcome such a distinguished personage; moreover, Sir Charles proved he could handle a bat well and his example in the field was one which younger players could emulate with advantage. He captained the Free Forester XI against Sind.

This team drew against the Europeans and lost against Indians; while The Free Foresters vs. Sind was won by the latter, Harris and Massey bowled well for the homesters in the first match while Gulam Mahomed bowled and batted splendidly and M. J. Mobed completed a fine century. The Free Foresters were beaten by an innings by a young Sind XI., Gulam Mahomed again playing havoc with his opponents, both with ball and bat.

M. C. C. Teams in Karachi—1926.

The first foreign team to visit Karachi was the M. C. C. Team under the captaincy of A. E. R. Gilligan in October 1926. For the spade work and the invitation to the M. C. C. to send a first class side to India, the credit goes to the Calcutta Cricket Club. The whole of the organization of the tour was arranged by the Calcutta C. C.

Here, when it was known that the M.C.C. would play their first matches at Karachi of their Indian tour, the excitement, the keenness and the expectation

amongst the lovers of Cricket knew no bounds.

The M. C. C. selected a very strong team, and in doing so paid a great compliment to the Indian Cricket. The team consisted of the following players:—

A. E. R. Gilligan.
R. E. S. Wyatt.
Major R. C. Chichester-Constable.
M. L. Hill.
P. T. Eckersley.
G. F. Earle.
A. Sandham.
J. H. Parsons.
M. W. Tate.
G. Geary.
G. Brown.
W. E. Astill.
G. S. Boyes.
J. Mercer.

The M. C. C. team arrived at Karachi on 16th October 1926. Four matches were arranged at Karachi and all were played on the Karachi Gymkhana ground. The first match was the M. C. C. XI vs. Parsi & Muslim XI played on 19th and 20th October and resulted in a draw. The M. C. C. batting first scored 339. R. E. S. Wyatt was the top scorer with 63 and strangely enough Sandham, Tate and Gilligan each of them scored 57 runs. Ghulam Mahomed was the successful bowler capturing 5 for 114. To the M. C. C. team's first innings of 339 the Parsi and Muslim XI replied with 187: M. J. Mobed 54, Late M. P. Dastur 32 and Sheik Hussein 30 faced the M. C. C. bowlers with confidence. There was no interest in the second innings as the home side batted very slow. M. C. C. declared at 77 for 4 and the home team scored 138 for 3.

Their second match was played on 23rd and 24th October against Hindu and Rest XI and it turned out to be a real test for the M. C. C. howlers in Karachi, not only that, but in two days even one inning

could not be finished. This match was characterised by excellent batting performances. For the Hindus and Rest who batted first, Jagannath V. Dalvi batted very beautifully and scored 73 (which included 11 fours) out of a total of 335. The others who did well with the bat were the well known veteran cricketer L. Semper 64 not out, Gopaladas 62. Tate 5 for 61 and Astill 4 for 86 shared the bowling honours. In the first innings the M. C. C. could score only 249 for 5. Sandham 129 and Parsons 58 added 144 for the fourth wicket. Sandham batted with ease and cut, drove, pulled and played his strokes all round the wicket. Dasrath captured 2 for 56.

The third match against the Europeans on 26th and 27th turned out to be a one sided affair and gave a good batting practice to the visitors as all their players scored some runs as the total 377 shows. Sandham 67 was once again their outstanding batsman. The Europeans could only score 151 to which Late Lt. Col. Rubie's score was 45 not out and 31 by Greenfield. Tate got 4 for 19. The interest in the match faded out owing to the M. C. C. not forcing the follow on, but themselves batting for the second time and scoring 139 for 4.

The M. C. C. won the fourth and the final match by an innings and 148 runs which was played against the Karachi XI on 29th, 30th and 31st October. Karachi batting first scored only 129 in which the batting honour went to Gopaladas 25, M. J. Mobed 32 and Naomal 32 and the bowling to Tate 4 for 32. Then the M. C. C. by scoring 517 runs gave a good leather hunting to Karachi. Parsons batted beautifully for 139 and as did also Tate 77 and Gilligan 73. Corbutt 5 for 135 bowled well. Karachi was unfortunate in being unable to stave off defeat as Late Lt. Col. Rubie and Ghulam Moha-

med were not well, former having dislocated his thumb while keeping wicket and the latter suffering from Malaria. The credit of good batting for Karachi in the second innings goes to Naoomal 83, and late M. P. Dastur 61 which brought the total to 240. Karachi fielding was good. Dastur at cover was magnificent and Naoomal had to run 50 yards from shortleg midoff to catch Gilligan.

Karachi XI.

BATTING.

1st Inning.

1. Gopaldas M. A. ct. Parsons b. Boyes	25
2. N. M. Dinshaw ct. Brown b. Boyes	10
3. Naoomal J. b. Tate	32
4. M. P. Dastur b. Boyes	1
5. Ghulam Mohamed ct. Parsons b. Tate	12
6. C. B. Rubie b. Astill	5
7. M. J. Mobed b. Tate	32
8. Jagannath V. Dalvi b. Tate	0
9. L. Semper Not out	2
10. Corbutt Run out	1
11. Mohamed Ibrahim ct. Brown b. Astill	0
Extras	9

 129

2nd Innings.

1. Gopaldas M. A. b. Tate	10
2. N. M. Dinshaw ct. Geary b. Boyes	18
3. Naoomal J. ct. Wyatt b. Gilligan	53
4. M. P. Dastur ct. Geary b. Tate	61
5. Ghulam Mohamed b. Tate	1
6. C. B. Rubie b. Tate	0
7. M. J. Mobed ct. & b. Geary	27
8. Jagannath V. Dalvi Run Out...	2
9. L. Semper ct. Astill b. Geary	5
10. Corbutt b. Tate	9
11. Mohamed Ibrahim Not Out	5
Extras	19

 240

BOWLING.

1st Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Geary	7	1	31	0
Tate	20	7	32	4
Boyes	14	2	36	3
Astill	13	0	21	2

2nd Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Geary	28	6	55	2
Tate	27.3	9	35	5
Boyes	18	5	41	1
Astill	21	3	66	0
Gilligan	6	1	16	1
Wyatt	3	1	8	0

M. C. C.

BATTING.

1st Innings.

Brown	L. B. W. b. Ghulam Mohamed	1
Sandham	Ct. Rubie b. Corbutt	28
Tate	b. Corbutt	77
Wyatt	ct. Rubie b. Semper	4
Parsons	ct. Corbutt b. M. J. Mobed	139
Astill	ct. M. J. Mobed b. Corbutt	29
Gilligan	ct. Naoomal b. Corbutt	73
Earle	ct. Semper b. M. J. Mobed	51
Geary	ct. Dinshaw b. Corbutt	19
Eckersley	ct. Dastur b. Gopaldas	45
Boyes	Not Out	45
Extras		6
		517

BOWLING.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Ghulam Mohamed	16	3	36	1
Semper	20	1	63	1
M. Ebrahim	21	6	54	0
Corbutt	28	0	135	5
Dinshaw	7	1	37	0
Jagannath	6	0	28	0
Gopaldas	11	1	42	1
Naoomal	4	0	21	0
M. J. Mobed	12	0	65	2

George Collins as Cricket Coach in 1927-28.

Encouraged by the performances of local cricketers against the Gilligan team and the sound financial position, the Association invited George Collins of Kent and England to coach the younger players and his services have been of great benefit to the younger players.

Sind Cricket Association Delhi Tour 1929.

This tour was the first Inter-Provincial tour arranged under the Jurisdiction of the Board of Control for Cricket in India. The Association sent out a very strong team to Delhi in January 1929

under the captaincy of Late Lt. Col. Rubie, the well wisher of Sind Cricket and the other 15 players were Blackeney, Sherwood, Semper, Dharamdas, Hiranand, Naomal, Gopalidas, Shridhar, Shankerdas, Ghulam Mohamed, Abdullah, Abdul Khalik, Mohamed Ibrahim, Sheikh Hussein and Harris.

The efforts of the tour were well rewarded. The team played as one and showed the real cricket spirit every where they played. It was a jolly team on and off the field which befits Sind cricketers. Delhi Cricket officials with Late Mr. Grant-Govan as their chairman made the tour very comfortable and happy one.

The summary results of the tour are:—

1st Match: Sind vs. Delhi & District:

Played on 9th and 10th January, 1929 on Roshanara Club Ground.

Sind scored 181 in the first innings, Col. C. B. Rubie 48 and Capt. L. V. S. Sherwood 45 and Dharamdas 30, D'Mello 5 for 44. 2nd innings 156 for 4 declared A. Khalik 75.

Delhi and District scored 164 in the first innings; P. N. Elhence 53 and Dharamdas 6 for 65.

2nd innings 77 for 4 wickets, Ali Hyder 33 not out, Dharamdas 3 for 19.

Result: Sind won on first innings.

2nd Match: Sind vs. Southern Punjab:

Played on 12th and 13th January 1929 on Roshanara Club Ground.

Sind scored 332 for 5 wickets declared, M. J. Abdullah 136, Abdul Khalik 64 and Naomal J. 63.

Southern Punjab 1st innings 149, Ferozekhan 55, Dharamdas 4 for 29.

2nd innings 104, W. M. Leggett 31, Dharamdas 7 for 19, Ibrahim 3 for 6.

Result: Sind won by an innings and 79 runs.

3rd Match: Sind vs. St. Stephens College on 16th and 17th January 1929 on St. Stephens College Ground.

Sind scored 291 in the first innings, Shankerdas 50, Abdulla 45, Ramchand 4 for 87.

St. Stephen's College scored 79, Rajinder-nath 31, Harris 7 for 39. 2nd innings 131, Ragbirdayal 48, Dharamdas 4 for 45.

Result: Sind won by an innings and 81 runs.

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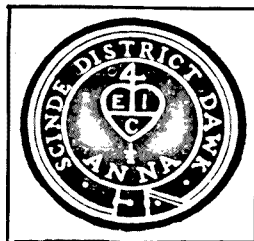
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"SCINDE DISTRICT DAWK"

THE STORY OF THE FIRST POSTAGE STAMPS IN INDIA

by
"PHILATELIST"

Seven hundred and fifty philatelic societies the world over are reported to have celebrated during the month of May the centenary of the issue of the world's first adhesive postage stamps—Great Britain's "Penny black" and "Two penny blue" of 1840. But how many philatelists, let alone the general public in Sind, know that this province has the distinction of having been the first to use postage stamps in India.

It was in February 1852, that Mr. Frere (afterwards Sir Bartle Frere), as Commissioner-in-Sind, first obtained assent, reluctantly given, to introduce a Horse Dak instead of foot-runners, experimentally for one year between Karachi and Hyderabad at a monthly cost of Rs. 1,750. Very shortly afterwards, in opposition to the generally accepted opinion amongst experienced officials in India who thought that "prepayment by stamps may do well in Europe, but will never do in India", Frere came to the conclusion that it was possible to introduce the system of prepayment by postage stamps and make a success of it. Frere nicknamed "the importunate widow" by Lord Falkland, the then Governor of Bombay, for his marvellous skill in either getting assent or in extorting money for his schemes, in this instance also won his point.

Sind had been conquered less than ten years before and was an outlying province still very loosely administered and seemed hardly a promising area in which to make an experiment, but Frere was convinced that the system was practicable and he determined that it should be tried. With the assistance of Mr. Coffey, the resourceful Postmaster of Karachi, he designed the first postage stamps. The design was a circular garter, inscribed "Scinde District Dawk," within the garter being a heart-shaped design bearing the initials of the East India Company and the value just below. The stamps were printed on three different papers: white, red and blue but all the three issues were of one value, i.e. $\frac{1}{2}$ anna. There is no certainty as to who printed or rather "embossed" the curious little stamps. There was an old letter in which the late Sir Bartle Frere attributed them to Messrs De la Rue & Co., but this is no longer accepted as authentic. All we know is that they were obtained from London, and at different times, were embossed plain on white paper, on red paper and on blue paper; in which order these were issued and used is not known.

The stamps were placed on sale at all district and taluka headquarters, where the kardars (mukhtarkars) were

asked to receive for despatch letters which were duly stamped. Orders were likewise issued to every Police officer and district official to receive all letters bearing these mystic "tickets" and forward them with his official budget to his superior, who in turn was to pass them on till they could be delivered to a regular post office. Thus every Government office in any department became a letter box and a cheap and efficient postal system was established over the whole Province. Letters weighing half a tola or less had to bear a half anna stamp, an additional half anna being required for each half tola; this charge covered their transmission to any post office in Sind.

A SLOW START

Local officers were at first lukewarm or mildly antagonistic; they had always said that the system could not succeed in India, and "I told you so" was the general tenor of their early reports on its failure to catch on. The Collector of Karachi, a district then extending as far north as Sehwan, reported that the total receipts from the sale of stamps upto the end of April 1852 were only two rupees, fifteen annas, and six pies. The Collector of Upper Sind plaintively objected that in spite of the new stamps, letter-writers still insisted on sending their letters "bearing". But a report of the receipts for June 1852 gave Frere both his encouragement and his opportunity. While the receipts for Sukkur and Shikarpur were nil, and those from Karachi only just over six rupees, the sales at Hyderabad had reached the giddy height of fifty-seven rupees, twelve annas and six pies. A few words of

judicious praise to the Collector of Hyderabad and of pained surprise at the lack of persuasiveness of other officers made it obvious that the Commissioner's new fad was to be taken seriously and from this time onwards the sales of postage stamps made continuous progress.

The Orders issued by Frere from time to time indicate the early difficulties which beset the new system. It was the custom of zamindars and others who stood in well with local officials to hand over their letters to be transmitted with the ordinary official post, and orders had to be issued strictly forbidding the kardars to accept letters other than those "on Service" unless they were duly stamped. Then the monopoly of the Government had to be enforced by forbidding private "kossids" or messengers to carry letters for the general public as apart from their own employers. As early as June 1852, regulations had to be issued against the "clubbing" of letters by the thrifty bhaibunds; clubbing was the practice of including five or six letters intended for different persons but included in a cover addressed to one individual. The detailed instructions issued for the defacing of stamps will explain to the lucky possessors of the now rare "Scinde District Dawk" stamps the thorough nature of their cancellation. "The kardar before despatching will deface the stamp with the erasing stamp, to accomplish which he must rub a little ink on the rough face of the brass, then place it firmly on the stamp to be scored, and give the wooden handle a slight twist which will so deface it as to render it impossible to be again used".

No sooner had the postage stamp established itself firmly than Frere was thinking of further developments, such as the institution of Pillar-boxes and of local deliveries. In October 1852 he wrote to the Postmaster in Sind asking him to consider whether the Karachi Post Office and the branch which it was proposed to open at the Custom House might not undertake to deliver letters with a postage stamp affixed in the station and its neighbourhood, after the manner of the Penny Post in England. It was suggested that boxes for such stamped letters might be fixed at the Custom House Shed, Kiamari, and at some place in Manora, the stamp covering them if they were intended either for local delivery in Karachi or for transmission by post to any post office in Sind:

THE CAMEL TRAIN

Experiments were also being continuously made to improve and speed up the actual conveyance of the letters. One of the most interesting of these was the institution, in August 1854, of the "Camel Train" between Karachi and Multan via Sehwan, Larkana, Shikarpur, Sukkur, Subzokot and Bahawalpur, with branches to Hyderabad, Kotri and Jacobabad. This train was worked by relays of camels over beats of about twelve miles each. Trouble was sometimes experienced by the indefatigable Mr. Coffey (who by this time had been appointed as Postmaster in Sind on a monthly salary of two hundred and fifty rupees) as the camel drivers many a time took off their camels from the beat on any or no pretext. Mr. Coffey had also a complaint to make of the lack of sympathy

and help from other departments. One officer, it appears, bound on a shooting expedition, had "puckaroed" the camels of her Majesty's Mail and used them for the conveyance of his own kit. But in spite of all difficulties, Mr. Coffey was able to show that the working of the Camel Train for the first six months had resulted in a profit to Government of eighteen hundred rupees.

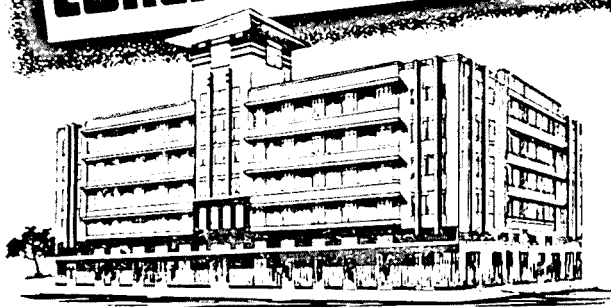
END OF THE SIND STAMPS.

But the days of Sind's leadership in postal matters were drawing to a close. The enactment of the Post Offices Act led to the appointment of a Director General of Post Offices in India, and the Postmasters General of Bombay and Madras were placed under him. On the first of May 1855, the control of the Post Office in Sind was handed over to the Postmaster-General, Bombay. It was not however until a year later that it was realised by the Government of India that the Sind District Postage Stamps were still in general use. Their circulation was immediately stopped and the postage stamps which were in use in other parts of India (introduced in 1854) were ordered to be introduced into Sind.

The "Scinde District Dawk" stamps were once very rare, but some years ago a systematic house-to-house hunt was organized through many of the towns where they were known to have been used, and considerable numbers were found. The present prices of the stamps are

	Unused	Used
$\frac{1}{2}$ a White	£ 10	£ 3
$\frac{1}{2}$ a Blue	£ 15	£ 5
$\frac{1}{2}$ a Red	£ 100	£ 55

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A RECORD OF 48 YEARS OF PROGRESS.

Of particular interest to the people of Sind is the opening of the new Head Office building of the Indian Life Assurance Company Ltd., on Victoria Road, Karachi, by His Excellency Sir Lancelot Graham, the Governor of Sind, on Wednesday the 8th May 1940.

Not merely is the Company the only Life Office with its headquarters in Sind, but it is also one of the oldest in the whole country—in fact it is the oldest purely Indian proprietary life office, being managed from its very inception exclusively by Indians. In the course of nearly half-a-century it has faithfully served its policyholders, giving them the best value obtainable in life assurance.

The Indian Life Assurance Co., Ltd., was established in the year 1892 at Karachi by some members of the Goan Community, a community small in number, in anything but affluent circumstances, hardly known in those days in the City, but a community imbued with sound principles and strength of character. The most ostentatious manner in which the venture was launched and the selflessness with which the promoters

of the concern laboured in the beginning, may be gauged from the fact that there were practically no preliminary expenses and that the total expenditure of the first fifteen months of the working of the Company was only Rs. 2,431/-

Soon after, branches were opened in Bombay and Goa and a start was also made in East Africa. Till the year 1934 or so, the Company's operations were for all practical purposes outside Karachi, confined to these three places and to the Christian communities in these places. This conservative policy was adopted and followed for the sole reason of building up the reserves of the concern.

From the year 1934 the Company abandoned its conservative methods, began to expand gradually and threw its doors wide open to people of all communities. It has now Branch Offices at Bombay, Nagpur and Goa, Chief Agencies in Bengal, Bihar & Orissa, and in British East Africa, and Organising Offices at Delhi, Lahore, Multan, and Rawalpindi in Northern India, Lucknow and Benares in the United Provinces, Gujrat and Kathiawar, Hyderabad

bad Deccan, and Southern India. It may now be truly regarded as an All-India Company.

With the extension and expansion of the Company's activities, its volume of business has increased. The total of the new business for the year ending 31st December 1939 was over 32 lakhs as compared with an annual average of about 2 lakhs prior to the year 1934.

At the present moment, the Life Fund of the Company is close on to a crore of rupees. In addition, policy-holders have the protection of the Share-holders' Capital of four lakhs (of which Rs. 1,45,000/- is paid-up) and substantial Shareholders' and Investment Reserve Funds amounting to more than fifteen lakhs. The assurances in force exceed two crores twenty lakhs and the annual premium income exceeds seven lakhs. Up to date nearly eighty lakhs have been paid out by way of claims.

The assets of the Company consist chiefly of Government and other gilt-edged securities of the value of over a crore of rupees. The Company owns besides, this huge plot of land at Karachi, on the Victoria Road side of which the building recently opened stands, and on the Elphinstone Street and Dundas Street sides of which stand the old buildings of the Company, erected in 1907, with a frontage of 434 feet. Further, the Company owns two large buildings in Bombay, one on Carnac Road near the Crawford Market purchased in 1917 for Rs. 1,50,000/- and the other in

Fort on the Sir Phirozeshah Mehta Road purchased in 1937 for Rs. 1,75,000/-.

To this brief survey of the Company's progressive history and of its excellent financial conditions may be added a few references to some of the special features of the Company's policies. Successive actuarial valuations, made in accordance with the law, have not only revealed the great financial strength the Company enjoys but have made it possible to allot substantial increments to the benefits assured by its policies as shown by the following record of surpluses disclosed and bonus rates declared in recent quinquenniums:—

Date.	Surplus. Rs.	Bonus rates per annum per 1,000.	
		Whole Life.	Endowment.
1917	1,49,061	12/8	10
1922	3,67,240	17/8	14
1927	6,75,545	20/0	16
1932	8,27,423	22/8	18
1937	9,74,526	22/8	18

A noteworthy feature is that the Company is the only Indian life office which allows bonus on paid-up policies. The Company is further noted for its economy of management with the lowest expense ratio on record of any Indian company.

In short, the success of Company is an achievement of which the people of Sind might well be proud, and is deserving of the full support of every patriotic Sindhi.

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OF THE
INDIAN LIFE ASSURANCE Co., Ltd.



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The "ILACO" House, Karachi

THE NEW HOME OF THE OLDEST PURELY INDIAN PROPRIETARY LIFE OFFICE.

Of late years Karachi has been the scene of a great deal of building activity. Modern methods of construction coupled with a growing recognition of architectural beauty have contributed to embellish a city which has already the reputation of being the cleanest in India. At the same time, the dangers of unhealthy overcrowding and congestion have been borne in mind so as to avoid the mistakes which similar progress has made elsewhere.

A leading place in this activity is taken by "Ilaco House," the new head office building of the Indian Life Assurance Company, Limited. Not content with the material benefits which it bestows in its business operations, the Company has evidently spared neither pains nor expenditure in order to provide the aesthetic satisfaction which goes with a truly noble piece of architectural beauty. For this contribution to its civic amenities the people of Karachi ought to be truly grateful.

Besides being a lucrative investment for the Company and an attractive landmark, the building has a further claim to prominence. Far-seeing persons have predicted a prosperous future for Victoria Road, as yet an undeveloped thoroughfare but full of promise. In the movement which must steadily and rapidly develop towards the realisation of this prophecy, "Ilaco House" takes the part of a pioneer. Indeed the Company's action in shifting its headquarters from Elphinstone Street to Victoria Road is a fore-runner of a natural movement which the high-class retail trade of the city will inevitably undertake in the near future.

The building itself is a thing of sheer beauty, in which modernity blends with tradition. It has five storeys and an immense frontage of no less than 300 feet. The facade is for the most part of that delightful material, Jodhpur Stone, the ground floor and plinth being faced with the choicest Italian and Belgian marbles, black and coloured, in a scheme which harmonises perfectly with the exquisite lines of the building.

The ground floor is designed to accommodate high class shops, while the upper floors are for the most part devoted to residential flats and professional chambers, which are unique in being served with three electric lifts. On the fourth floor is housed the Company's own offices which have been planned with an eye to beauty as well as to hygienic and comfortable working conditions.

The building has been planned and its construction supervised by the well known architects, Messrs. Mistri & Bhedwar, of Bombay and Karachi. The Principal Contractors were Messrs. Bhagwan Raja Patel & Co., who have been responsible for many of the finest buildings in Karachi. The extensive sanitary installation was carried out by the Karachi Sanitary & Drainage Works. Mr. M. A. Vania executed the electrical installation, while the three Schindler lifts were supplied by Messrs. Richardson & Cruddas. The tiles were supplied by the Sind Patent Tiles Co. (Nusserwanjee & Co.,) and the marble work has been entrusted to Raval Tiles and Marbles, Ltd.



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