

ed in the affirmative; and the constellations and astronomy,' he adds, 'brought vividly to my mind my old friend Mr. Gibson, and the globe and the map of the Town Bank School; and I was more than ever persuaded that all is for the best.' Thus was laid the foundation of a friendship which ended only with life; and Barrow always acknowledged with gratitude that to Sir George Staunton's unvarying kindness he was indebted for all the good fortune which attended him through life.

A few months later, Sir George Staunton having been appointed to accompany Lord Macartney in his embassy to China, in the capacity of secretary and minister plenipotentiary, that gentleman contrived to have young Barrow's name placed on the list of the ambassador's suite as comptroller of the household; and this arrangement filled him with such joy, that (as he expresses it) he was 'overwhelmed with delight.'

Previous to launching out into the new world now opening before him, he contrived to visit his parents at Dragleybeck; and we cannot forbear noting down the brief sketch he gives of the good old couple at this period of his life. 'I found my parents happy and well; but my mother's eyesight, which had long been failing, was now quite gone; the principal uneasiness it occasioned her was her inability to attend divine service, the church being a mile from the cottage; my father and mother having for more than twenty years never missed the two Sunday services; but my father read to her the morning lessons and the evening service regularly every Sunday. The loss of sight never interfered with my mother's usual cheerfulness, and the young ladies of Ulverstone were her constant and agreeable visitors.'

Barrow had just completed his twenty-eighth year when he sailed in Lord Macartney's suite on the 26th September, 1792. Our space will not admit of any extracts from the journal he kept during his voyage to China, and visits to Chusan, Pekin, and Canton. We may, however, be allowed to quote one passage which bears upon the earlier part of his history. Among the costly presents sent by George III, to the emperor of China, were several valuable mathematical and scientific instruments, which, on the arrival of the embassy in Pekin were delivered to the care of Barrow, in order that they should be fitted up in the great hall of audience in the palace of Yuen-min-Yuen, for the emperor's inspection. This charge he felt to be a serious one, when he found himself surrounded by the members of the tribunal of mathematics, and other learned personages, all asking him questions concerning astronomy, mathematics, &c. 'How often,' he exclaims, 'when among these people, did I think of my poor old friend Gibson, and how much I was indebted to him!'

After an absence of two years from England, Barrow landed at Spithead in the ambassador's suite, on the 6th September 1794. Sir George Staunton's house was now his home, where, besides the instruc-

tion bestowed on Mr. Staunton, he was busily employed in compiling and arranging the materials for Sir George's official account of the embassy to China. He, however, obtained a few weeks' leave of absence, to run down to Ulverstone to see his parents whom he found quite well, and 'delighted at his safe return.' There he found himself looked upon as a curiosity; for at that time it was by no means ordinary a matter to traverse the globe, as it is in the present day; and a man who had visited Pekin, and seen the emperor of China, was regarded as a wonder.

On his return to London, Barrow resumed his usual course of life; among his other engagements was that of accompanying Mr. Staunton three days in the week to Kew Gardens, where they used to botanise with Aiton's 'Hortus Kuvensis' in the hands, which, in Barrow's future travels in South Africa, was of the greatest service to him, Kew being in possession of specimens of a large portion of the Flora of the Cape of Good Hope.

Towards the close of 1796, the Cape of Good Hope having fallen into our hands, its government was committed to Lord Macartney, who immediately appointed Barrow as his private secretary—a nomination equally honourable and agreeable to him; and on the 4th of May 1797, he landed at Cape Town in health and high spirits. Here a new sphere of duty awaited him, which he filled with the same energy and diligence which had marked his course throughout life. Owing to the refractory state of the Boers in the colony, Lord Macartney, on his first arrival, found himself encompassed with difficulties, which were increased by an utter ignorance of the geography of the country. He intrusted Barrow with a mission to the Boers at Graaff Reynet, which was exploratory as well as conciliatory in its object. Having fulfilled this mission most satisfactorily, he subsequently volunteered his services on other expeditions, with the view of becoming acquainted with the people, as well as with the productions of the country, and of ascertaining the geographical positions and boundaries of the various settlements, which at that time were most imperfectly known. 'Thus,' as he briefly expresses it, 'between the 1st of July, 1796, and the 18th January 1797, I had traversed every part of the colony of the Cape of Good Hope, and visited the several countries of the Caffres, the Hottentots, and the Boers: performing a journey exceeding three thousand miles on horseback, very rarely in a covered wagon and full one-half of the distance as a pedestrian. During the whole time (with the exception of a few nights passed at the Drosdy-house Graaff Reynet) I never slept under a roof, but always in a wagon, and in the cot that I brought with me in the good ship "Trusty" from England.'

(To be continued.)

