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"Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, good will toward men."

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### BIOGRAPHY.

#### INTERESTING ACCOUNT OF THE REV. SAMUEL LEE;

*Whose talents, industry, and attainments, have raised him to an exalted station.*

"Let high birth triumph,—but can be more great!  
"Nothing, but merit in a low estate.

[CONCLUDED.]

Mr. Lee's talents are not wholly confined to the dead and Eastern languages. He has also made a considerable proficiency in French, German, and Italian. With this amazing faculty of mind, he has also associated a taste for elegant composition; and his poetical talents are highly respectable. Of this taste, and of these talents, he has furnished several specimens in English and Latin. He has also given a parody of Gray's Ode to Adversity, in Greek Sapphic verse, which is considered, by competent judges, as a surprising effort of self-instructed genius.

"When I first had the pleasure of conversing with Mr. Lee upon books," says Archdeacon Corbett, "I found he had read the Latin poets usually introduced into schools, as Ovid, Virgil, Horace, &c.: that he had read part of the Odyssey, as well as the Iliad, of Homer; some of the Greeks minor poets, and some of the plays of Sophocles. Before we parted, I lent him the memoirs of that interesting and extraordinary young man, Mr. Kirk White, then lately printed. Mr. Lee returned it to me very shortly with a Latin poem in praise of Kirk White; a dialogue in Greek, on the Christian religion; and a pious effusion in Hebrew; all compiled by himself, when, as I believe, he had not any accession to books, for he was, during the time, upon permanent duty at Ludlow, as a member of the South Local Militia for this county. And I believe, the first prose composition of any length Mr. Lee turned his attention to, was the History of the Syrian Churches in India;—a memoir which would do credit to the pen of any historian."

From the knowledge which Mr. Lee had obtained of the Oriental languages, through his acquaintance with Dr. Scott, he was introduced into a few private houses, as instructor in Persic and Hindostanee, to the sons of gentlemen, who were expecting appointments either in the civil or military department of the Honourable East India Company's service. This engagement, the superintendence of his own school, and his occasional attendance on two other seminaries as teacher of Arithmetic, constituted his employment, during his residence at Shrewsbury, and from the proficiency made by his pupils, it may be fairly inferred, that his talents of conveying knowledge to others, corresponded with the facility with which he makes his personal acquisitions.

But the period was at hand, in which, through the order of an overruling Providence, Mr. Lee was to be transplanted to a region more congenial to his natural feelings, and the bent of his genius. His acquaintance with Dr. Scott, which knew no interruption, was soon matured into a serious friendship, and this, in conjunction with his constantly accumulating attainments, led to his connection with the Church Missionary Society, to his admission at Queen's College, Cambridge, and to his ordination as a Minister of the Established Church. But his admission at the University, unfolds another feature in the astonishing character of his genius, which justice forbids us to pass by in silence.

"When he entered at Cambridge," says Archdeacon Corbett, "he was unacquainted with the mathematics. But in one fortnight he had qualified himself to attend a class, which had gone through several books of Euclid; and he soon after discovered an error, not indeed in Euclid, but in a treatise on Spherical Trigonometry, usually bound up with Simpson's Euclid, the 13th proposition of which Mr. Lee disproved. Now, as Simpson's edition of Euclid may be looked upon as a text-book at other Universities, and as it is the one usually put

into the hands of students, and to which the lectures of the tutors apply, it is most wonderful, if a mistake should have been pointed out in such a work, and for the first time, it should seem, by a student of not many weeks' standing in that science. And as the highest honours are given at Cambridge to mathematical learners, Mr. Lee must have anticipated a safe and easy road to those honours. But he considered this point, as he considers all others, with that sobriety of mind with which he is so eminently gifted; and he contented himself with a competent knowledge of mathematics, lest further attention to that seducing science, should interfere with those studies, in which the highest interests of mankind are concerned. This decision speaks volumes as to Mr. Lee's theological views. Of Mr. Lee it may be said, that if he has ambition, it is to know the word of God himself, and to impart that word to others; though whether he shall be honoured upon earth, as the instrument of the good he has done, or may do, is, I believe, with him, a very inferior consideration; or, rather, no consideration at all."

In referring to the convertibility of Mr. Lee's genius, notwithstanding his retired and unassuming manners, and also to the sincerity with which he took upon him the sacred office of a minister of Jesus Christ, the following circumstance ought not to be omitted. No sooner was he in holy orders, than he received invitations to preach to some of the largest congregations. Many of these he accepted. On these occasions he ascended the pulpits with all the ease and self-possession of one long accustomed to the station; and he delivered his discourses with a freedom and an eloquence, equal to that of the best practical preacher.

The languages with which this astonishing man has made himself acquainted, including his native tongue, are eighteen in number; which are as follows:—1. English. 2. Latin. 3. Greek. 4. Hebrew. 5. Chaldee. 6. Syriac. 7. Samaritan. 8. Arabic. 9. Persic. 10. Hindostanee. 11. French. 12. German. 13. Italian. 14. Ethiopic. 15. Coptic. 16. Malay. 17. Sanscrit. 18. Bengalee.—This is about one third more than the much celebrated Mr. Crichton ever attained.

Of his literary labours, the following articles appear to grace the list.—

1. The Syriac New Testament, edited by Mr. Lee, and published, is not a continuation of Dr. Buchanan's, but an entire new work; for which Mr. Lee collated three Syriac manuscripts, the Syrian commentary of Syrius, and the texts of Ridley, Jones, and Wetstein.

2. An edition of the Malay New Testament, from the Dutch edition of 1723; and the Old Testament, is now in the press.

3. An enlarged and corrected edition of Mr. Martyn's Hindostanee Prayer Book, in conjunction with Mr. Corrie.

4. A tract, translated into Persian and Arabic, and printed; entitled "The Way of Truth and Life," for the use of the Mahometans.

5. A Malay tract, for the London Missionary Society, and some tracts in Hindostanee, for the Society for instructing the Lascars.

6. A tract in Arabic, on the new system of education, written by Dr. Bull, and first translated by Michael Sabag, for Baton de Sacy, Oriental interpreter to the king of France.

7. Dr. Scott having translated the Service for Christmas Day from the Prayer-book of the Church of England into Persic, Mr. Lee has added to it the rest of the Liturgy.

8. Mr. Lee has in hand a new translation of the Old Testament into Persian, in conjunction with Mirza Khaleel.

9. Mr. Lee is printing an Hindostanee New Testament.

10. He is preparing for an Ethiopic Bible, and some other works.

11. Mr. Lee has also made a new font of letter, for Hindostanee and Persian printing, and a new

font, for an edition of the Syriac Old Testament; and for which he has collated nine ancient manuscripts, and one ancient commentary. Some of these were collated for the London Polyglot; but Mr. Lee looks upon these collations both as incorrect and deficient. He hopes to restore many omissions, both in the London and Paris Polyglots.

Happily for the honour of the British nation, these talents have not been suffered either to remain in obscurity, or to languish under that adversity where they had their birth. At a Congregation, held on the 10th of March, 1819, the REV. SAMUEL LEE, of Queen's College, was admitted Master of Arts by Royal Mandate, and was afterwards elected PROFESSOR OF ARABIC, on the resignation of the Rev. John Palmer, B. D. of St. John's College. Such are the honours which Mr. Lee has already attained, through the exercise of his extraordinary talents in the cause of virtue and religion. The dignity and exaltation which yet await him, we presume not to anticipate.

Of his personal character, an amiable picture has been drawn by his first venerable friend and patron, Archdeacon Corbett, who extended to him the hand of benevolence, when his loss by fire had reduced him to a state of penury and distress. Towards Mr. Lee, the Archdeacon has invariably preserved his attachment, withholding no assistance that friendship, and a respect for genius, could induce him to bestow. Of this kindness Mr. Lee is so deeply sensible, that he omits no prudent opportunity of expressing his obligations, in the warm effusions of a grateful heart.

"The whole of Mr. Lee's life," says the Archdeacon, "has been sober, moral, and consistent. He bears his faculties most meekly. The resources of his mind are unapparent, till called forth. He sought not polished society; but he mingled in it, when invited, without effort, and without embarrassment; and, without losing any of his humility, he sustains his place in it with ease and independence. Mr. Lee's learning is without any tincture of pedantry; and his religion is as far removed from enthusiasm on the one hand, as it is from lukewarmness on the other. Let us bless God, then that such talents are thus directed. Let us bless God, that they are directed in an especial manner to the interests of the Bible Society. And, perhaps, the grandeur and the simplicity so apparent in the plan of the Bible Society, are the two adjuncts, that best exemplify the mind thus devoted to its service."

### ANNIVERSARY.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

*Continued.*

The Rev. Dr. SINGER (Secretary to the Hibernian Bible Society) proposed the third resolution (a vote of thanks to Lord Teignmouth), and spoke nearly as follows:—"It would be, I think, impossible for any one who attaches a just value and importance to this society, and the circulation of the Scriptures, of which it is the means, to hear such a testimony as that borne—borne too by one who, in the contest of the Lord against the mighty, has fought and bled—it is impossible, I say, to have heard such a testimony, without feeling an interest for this great cause far beyond what preconceived ideas would enable us to imagine. What prospect does not the report present, and how must our bosoms swell, when we see the standard of the Cross displayed in triumph, from the icy shores of Norway to the great table land of the Cape of Good Hope, and from the stupendous heights of the Himalaya mountains, to the no less imposing majesty of the Andes? Let us then, use our God for the formation of such a society—which originated with this country, blessed because it has done so—and which confers more honour upon England than all the story of her glories. For, let every one recollect, that by this a moral electricity has been produced, which has gone forth, not to devastate