

# NEW-BRUNSWICK

## RELIGIOUS AND LITERARY JOURNAL.

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

VOLUME I.

SAINT JOHN, SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1829.

NO. 25.

### BIOGRAPHY.

#### MEMOIR OF LORD TEIGNMOUTH.

On two accounts this nobleman has an imperious claim to some biographical notice, among the public characters of the present age, independently of those private virtues which enable the most exalted stations, and give to title a dignity which neither birth nor princes can confer. As Governor of India, his lordship's name is enrolled in the temple of fame, and as President of the British and Foreign Bible Society, it is engraven on the hearts of thousands, and consigned to immortality.

In the Biographical Dictionary of living authors, the character of this Nobleman is thus portrayed.

TEIGNMOUTH, Right Honourable Sir John Shore, Baron of the kingdom of Ireland. This nobleman was born in Devonshire in 1751, and early in life went to India in the civil service. He there contracted an intimacy with Mr. Hastings, and filled several important offices. In 1786, he married the only daughter of Mr. Cornish, a respectable medical practitioner at Teignmouth; and in 1793, he was appointed Governor General of Bengal, at which time he was created a Baronet. He was the bosom friend of Sir William Jones, and succeeded him in the presidency of the Asiatic Society, in which capacity he delivered a handsome eulogy on his predecessor, which was printed together with some other well-written essays of his composition, in the transactions of that learned body. Lord Teignmouth, in 1803, instituted the British and Foreign Bible Society, the cause of which he has advocated as its president, with great ability. He is at present one of the Commissioners for managing the Affairs of India, and the author of, *Memoirs of the Life, Writings, and Correspondence, of Sir William Jones*, 4to. 1804. *The Works of Sir William Jones, with the life of the Author*, 13 vols. 8vo. 1807. A Letter to the Rev. Christopher Wordsworth, D. D. on the subject of the Bible Society, 8vo. 1810. *Considerations on communicating to the inhabitants of India, the Knowledge of Christianity*, 8vo. 1811.

Under the article *Heraldry*, in the *Encyclopædia Londinensis*, the following account is given of this Nobleman and his family, which we the more readily transcribe, because it marks with precision the principal events of his public life, and states with exactness the distinct periods of those appointments and honours, with which, as a citizen of the British Empire, his name is now associated.

Shore, (John) Baron Teignmouth, and a Barone, a Commissioner for the Affairs of India, and a Privy Counsellor in England, born Oct. 8, 1751, married Feb. 14, 1786, Charlotte, only daughter of James Cornish, Esq. of Teignmouth, and has issue Charles John, heir-apparent, born Jan. 13, 1796, and several other children. His Lordship is descended from the family of Shore, of Heathcote in Derbyshire. He was appointed in 1786, a Member of the Supreme Council at Fort William in Bengal; and in 1792 elected to succeed Lord Cornwallis as Governor General of India, which situation he continued to fill until March 1798. He was created Baronet of England in 1792, and elevated to the Peerage of Ireland, Oct. 24, 1797 by the title of Baron Teignmouth; appointed a Commissioner for the Affairs of India, April 4, 1807, and sworn one of the Privy Council, April 8, following.—Motto; *Perimus licitis*, "Death in a good cause."

Having thus connected together the testimonies of Biography and Heraldry, as already given in the public prints, we now proceed to draw from a private source of information, some facts not generally known, which cannot but place his Lordship's character in an amiable point of view. With this information we have chiefly been favored by a highly respected gentleman, whose communication we deem it an honor to have received. This gentleman, who held a staff situation in India, during

the whole period of his Lordship's government, was intimately acquainted with him; and having retired from camps and garrisons, he now cultivates in private life, those Christian graces, by which the congenial spirit of Lord Teignmouth is distinguished; and which will continue to flourish when empires shall be forgotten, and the connection between India and England shall be dissolved. We have only to observe, that as some branches of his communication have been anticipated in the preceding paragraph, he will easily perceive the cause of those partial omissions, which on no other account would have taken place.—

The Right Honourable Lord Teignmouth is an honorary member of the Board of Control for Affairs in India, and the noble President of the British and Foreign Bible Society. This latter situation he has had the honor to sustain, from the primary establishment of that glorious Institution. As the circulation of the Holy Scriptures, through the medium of this great Society, its subordinate branches, and ample correspondence, extends over a considerable portion of the habitable globe, the name of its noble President, must excite a general interest, and secure the veneration of those Christian spirits, which, harmonizing in love, are endeavouring, through this vast machine, to promote its great design, in proclaiming, through the written word, "Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, good will towards men."

Lord Teignmouth was called to this exalted station, as President, from the original formation of the institution in 1804. From that moment to the present, his indefatigable labors prove, that he engaged in this work from a purity of principle, which alone could preserve him from growing weary in well doing. On this ground, he lives, not only in the eye of the British empire, but in that of foreign nations, and kindreds, and tongues, and we cannot doubt, that his name will hereafter be mentioned with pleasing veneration in languages which to us are yet unknown. By the Rev. John Owen, in his *History of the Bible Society*, this truly Christian Nobleman has been judiciously denominated "The patron of religion, and an example of its influence, while discharging the functions of Governor General of Bengal."—Vol. I. page 68.

Lord Teignmouth, who is about 63 years of age, embarked for Bengal on the civil establishment of the Honorable the East India Company, about the year 1768, as Mr. John Shore. Here he passed through the various gradations of that service, in the civil and judicial, but chiefly in the revenue department, and qualified himself for the highest offices, by the energetic employment of his talents, and the early acquirement of an intimate knowledge of the Persian, and the popular Oriental languages.

In the year 1786, during Mr. Pitt's Administration, when Lord Melville was President of the Board of Control, and the Marquis Cornwallis Governor General of India, We find Mr. Shore at the head of the revenue department; and 1787, he had the honor, with the Honorable Charles Stuart, by a special commission from the King, to invest Marquis Cornwallis with the most noble order of the Garter. Mr. Shore continued in India, high in the esteem and confidence of Marquis Cornwallis, when reiterated attacks of sickness, compelled him to return to England, for the benefit of his health.

Mr. Pitt and Lord Molyneux, being well acquainted with his inflexible integrity, and eminent qualifications, induced the King to create him a Baronet. This was done in 1792, and he was appointed provisional successor to Marquis Cornwallis, who resigned the government of British India to Sir John Shore, Bart. on the 28th of October, 1793.

In April 1794, that universal scholar, and justly celebrated orientalist, Sir William Jones, who was judge of the Supreme Court in India, and the intimate acquaintance of Sir John Shore, departed this life at Calcutta; and was succeeded by him in

\* See in his "Life of Sir William Jones," a letter written by himself.

the chair, as President of the Asiatic Society. On the 22d of May following he pronounced at a funeral meeting, a masterly eulogium on his departed friend. In this he unconsciously delineated many striking features of character, which, though peculiarly applicable to the deceased, many who heard could not but transfer to the speaker his successor.

Among the various effusions to which the death of Sir William Jones gave rise, was the following verse, written by her Grace the Duchess of Devonshire in 1795, as delineating his character, and designed as a tribute of respect to his revered memory. These lines falling into the hands of Lady Jones, were, at her particular request, introduced by Lord Teignmouth into the memoir of her late husband, which he was then writing.

To give the sentiments contained in them another application, we need only change the the name of the deceased for that of the Biographer, and justice will sanction the appropriation.

Admir'd and valued in a distant land,  
His gentle manners all affection won;  
The prostrate Hindoo own'd his fostering hand,  
And science mark'd him for her favour'd son.

Lord Teignmouth continued Governor General of the British Empire in the East Indies, from October 28th 1793, to the 15th of March 1798, the interval of which forms a period of nearly four years and a half; the most eventful in itself to Britain, and the most ominous in its effects and consequences to the nations of Europe that has ever occurred in any era of their history. The frowns of insulted Omnipotence seemed to hang on the kingdoms engaged in war; the roots of empire appeared to be loosened; and the prognostics of famine, in many places, threatened to complete the desolations of the sword. Lord Teignmouth, who was succeeded by the present Marquis Wellesley, then Lord Mornington, rendered at this crisis to his native country an essential service, by sending home large supplies of rice, so that England, during a scarcity of corn, was partially fed with this valuable article shipped from Bengal. The Duke of Wellington, then Lieutenant-Colonel Wellesley, commanding the 33d regiment of foot, arrived in Calcutta in 1797.

It was not merely with foreign nations, that England had to contend. Discontents prevailed in the heart of the empire, and many places exhibited the presages of commotion. India had its share of these internal calamities, arising from causes which have not hitherto been fully developed, but which history hereafter will clearly elucidate. On some of these occasions, his Lordship's courage was proved by a test not desutute of severity, which called into exercise those diversified talents, which his arduous and awfully responsible station so fully required.

Without entering, in this brief biographical sketch, into a minute detail of Lord Teignmouth's public services, we shall alone add, that with all his other virtues and talents, this distinguished Nobleman possessed a deep penetration to discern remote effects in their pregnant causes, through which he was enabled to prevent intestine commotion from ripening into birth, without permitting those whose latent purposes he had defeated, to discover the motive by which he had been actuated. Undaunted courage and inflexible justice were distinguishing characteristics of his arduous administration. Amidst the storms produced by conflicting passions, his integrity remained unshaken; and under every circumstance, his eye was steadily fixed on that authority with which he was entrusted as Governor General of British India, and which he invariably succeeded in preserving from violation.

In every station which his Lordship has hitherto been called to fill, his attachment to the cause of Christianity has been invincible. Among the dissolute morals which prevailed in India, during his dominion there, he had in this respect courage to