

II. CONTENTS OF FOREIGN ORIENTAL JOURNALS.

1. WIENER ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR DIE KUNDE DES MORGENLANDES.

Band vi. Heft 2.

P. Gr. Kalemkiar. Die siebente Vision Daniels.

G. Bickell. Kritische Bearbeitung des Iob-Dialogs.

G. Bühler. A new Variety of the Southern Maurya Alphabet.

A. von Kegl, Seibânî, ein moderner persischer Dichter des Pessimismus.

2. ZEITSCHRIFT DER DEUTSCHEN MORGENLÄNDISCHEN GESELLSCHAFT.

Band xxv. Heft iv.

Kresmárik, (J.). Das Waḳfrecht vom Standpunkte des Šarīʿatrechtes nach der ḥanefitischen Schule.

Huth, (G.). Das buddhistische Sūtra der "Acht Erscheinungen." Tibetischer Text mit Übersetzung von Julius Weber.

Hommel, (Fritz). Ueber den Ursprung und das Alter der Arabischen Sternnamen und insbesondere der Mondstationen.

Stackelberg, (R. von). Iranica.

Schmidt, (Dr. R.). Specimen der Dinālāpanikāçukasaptati.

Bradke, (P. von). Ueber Vorvedisches im Veda.

Goldziher, (Ign.). Die Ginnen der Dichter.

Jacob, (Georg.). Kannten die Araber wirklich sicilischen Bernstein?

III. OBITUARY NOTICES.

General Sir Lewis Pelly, K.C.B., K.C.S., M.P.—The news of the sudden death of this amiable and distinguished officer, at the age of 67, fell heavily on the ears of his numerous friends and admirers. He joined this Society in 1858, and had served on the Council, and contributed papers to this *Journal*. He went out to Bombay in the Native Infantry

in 1841, but at a very early date he was employed in the Political Department under Sir James Outram and General John Jacob, and he accompanied the former in the Persian expedition in 1856. In 1859 he was Secretary of Legation at Teherán, and became Chargé d'Affaires on the retirement of Sir Henry Rawlinson. In 1861-2 he acted as Consul on the East Coast of Africa; in 1862 he became Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, and in 1872 he accompanied Sir Bartle Frere on his mission to Zanzibar. In 1873 he was Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputána, and in 1874 he was Special Commissioner at Baróda. In 1876 he was appointed Plenipotentiary for the frontier discussion of Afghan affairs, at the special desire of the Viceroy, Lord Lytton, and soon after he returned to England, having received repeatedly the thanks of the Government of India, and the Orders attached to his name. His public career in India and Persia was most remarkable.

But there was a literary side of his career also: he was an admirable Persian scholar, and he contributed to the Proceedings of Scientific Societies, published separate pamphlets, was a constant writer in periodicals and newspapers, and under his direction was collected and published the *Miracle Play of Hasan and Hasain*, a set of thirty-seven dramatic scenes, concerning which the *Times*, in a long review under date August 19th, 1879, remarked that it was full of matter of the highest value to the student of comparative theology; in fact it was a work unique of its kind, and which no one could have put forth who had not the peculiar experiences and knowledge of Sir Lewis Pelly.

In 1885 he stood successfully in the Conservative interest for the Northern Division of Hackney, and sat for that borough up to the date of his death. He knew certain subjects well, and wisely confined himself to those subjects, and when he spoke, his words had due weight. He was a Director of the Imperial British East African Company, and his last utterance in the House of Commons was in connection with the affairs of East Africa, with which his official experience had made him very familiar.

He was extremely courteous in his manner, and agreeable and instructive in his conversation, and he was one of the best type of the Anglo-Indian officials.

R. N. C.

June 9th, 1892.

Mr. Stephen Austin, of Hertford.—The death, at the age of 87, occurred at Hertford on Saturday, the 21st of May, of one who in years was perhaps the oldest member of the Royal Asiatic Society. Mr. Austin was printer to the East India College at Haileybury until it was closed in 1858. Supported by the authorities of that institution, he started the printing and publishing of works in Oriental languages, and for many years he was one of the very few Oriental printers in England. As an Oriental printer he acquired a world-wide reputation, and many of the finest specimens of Oriental typography have borne his name. In 1834 he started the newspaper since known as the *Hertfordshire Mercury*, and for upwards of fifty years he actively superintended its publication. After the extinction of the East India Company the college buildings at Haileybury were purchased by the British Land Company as a speculation; and it was largely owing to the unwearied exertions and persevering energy of Mr. Stephen Austin that the old college was preserved as a place of education, and the present successful public school founded on its site. For the last 25 years the Journal of the Society has been printed at Hertford, and a great variety of Oriental types have been introduced into its pages in beautiful style and with great accuracy: books were produced from his press in the following languages, Sanskrit, Bangālī, Arabic, Persian, Pashtu, Hindustani, Hindī, and Hebrew, all these with different or varying alphabets: there were also considerable issues in the more familiar languages and alphabets of Europe, Greek, Latin, French, and English.

Mr. Austin received gold medals from Her Majesty the Queen and the Empress Eugenie of France, in acknowledgment of the taste and skill displayed in his productions, and medals of the first class at the International Exhibitions of

Paris and London, and in 1883 the Congress International des Orientalistes presented him with a diploma for services rendered to Oriental literature.

Full of enterprize in early life, and of sympathetic intelligence in his declining years, he secured to himself firm and lasting friendships: he was highly appreciated for his services by his fellow citizens, and his death has left a gap which will not easily be filled.

R. N. C.

June 8, 1892.

IV. NOTES AND NEWS.

The Game of Wei Chi.—At a recent meeting at Shanghai of the China branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, M. Volpicelli read a paper on "The Game of Wei-chi," which, he said, was the great game of China. It is considered by the Chinese to be far superior to chess, and to be the special game of the literary class. Wei-chi possesses interesting features and requires great skill in playing. It has for us the merit of absolute novelty, because it differs essentially from all Western games. Unlike chess or draughts, the men are never taken, but remain where they are played. The game is not a series of skilful evolutions, but a successive occupation of points which, joined together, give a final winning position. Though the game is on a very extensive scale, the board containing 361 places and the men employed being nearly 200 aside, still it is very simple in principle, all the men having the same value and the same powers. To achieve the object of the game on such an extensive board requires great foresight and profound calculation. This object is to occupy as much space on the board as possible. He who at the end of the game commands most places has won. This can be carried out in two ways—by enclosing empty spaces on the board with a certain number of one's men, and by surrounding and capturing the enemy's men. The name wei-chi comes from wei, meaning "to surround." Though it is so easy to state