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it should be an optional subject, both in arts and science. It should be compulsory for some students in a minor standard, for instance, for students reading for honours in history, or anthropology and ethnology, or economics or geology. Teachers of geography in the lower classes of secondary schools should have passed in geography in this lower standard, while those responsible for the teaching of geography in the highest classes should have taken honours in geography. The universities should therefore provide the skilled teaching and efficient equipment that are necessary for a subject regarded as of first-rate importance by nearly every first-class university outside the English-speaking lands.

"In all technical, commercial, and professional schools, general as well as applied geography should have a more prominent place in the curriculum than it occupies at present, both from an educational and utilitarian point of view."

The need of graduates trained in geography was never greater than at present. The general principles and facts of geography are best learned at school. But geography in its technical phases, more particularly commercial geography, should be taught in our commercial and technical colleges, as is systematically done in Germany, France, and other rival countries. Highly trained teachers are necessary for this, unless commercial geography is to be confined to the catalogues of commodities and tables of statistics that are so often mistaken for it at present. It is quite impossible to exaggerate the importance of a sound training in economic geography, such as certainly cannot be had anywhere in Scotland at the present day. As far as we know, outside the evening schools of some School Boards, there is only one class in commercial geography in Scotland, and that a junior one. Thus even the practical value of geography is lost sight of owing to the general apathy to the subject common throughout our educational system.

OBITUARY: 1897.

By J. W. M'CRINDLE, M.A., M.R.A.S.

VIVIEN DE SAINT-MARTIN.—On the 28th of December 1896 this illustrious French geographer died at Versailles, in the ninety-fifth year of his age. He was born in 1802 at Saint-Martin de Fontenay in the Department of Calvados, and having at an early age proceeded thence to Paris, he there embarked on a literary career. He was drawn at once to the study of geography, and all the rest of his long life he devoted himself, if not quite exclusively, yet with unwearied assiduity, to the investigation and exploration of the facts of that science. In 1821 he was instrumental, along with others, in founding the Geographical Society of Paris, and, as we learn, was for many years the sole survivor of the group of his associates in that undertaking.

The amount of work which Saint-Martin accomplished in his chosen field of research was truly enormous. He had no passion but for learning, and this absorbed all the energies of his nature. He passed his life in reading, pen in hand, and taking notes for the composition of his works. In these, it may be remarked, questions of physical geo-

graphy held a place second to those which belonged to the historical and critical side of the science. Among the numerous productions of his pen may be mentioned a *Universal Atlas* (published early in his career, in 1825), and works on *Asia Minor*, on the *North of Africa in Greek and Roman Antiquity*, on the *Greek and Latin Geography of India*, and in particular on the *India of Ptolemy in its Relations with Sanscrit Geography*, and on the *History of Geography and of Geographical Discoveries*, this last being the best known of all his works.

About the year 1860 he conceived the plan of a gigantic undertaking—*A Dictionary and an Atlas of Universal Geography*. He made a beginning with both works, but his advanced age, and the rapidity with which geographical discoveries succeeded each other, forced him to employ younger men as his coadjutors, and the work, which was finally taken up by M. Rousselet, was brought to its completion the year before its originator died. It must be mentioned also that for twelve years (from 1863-75) M. de Saint-Martin was the sole author of the annual record of the progress of geography in the publication (now extinct) called the *Année Géographique*. About the year 1870 he ceased to attend the meetings of the Geographical Society, and in the seclusion of his library at Versailles found his pleasure in studying works of erudition, those especially of antique times. He is described by a writer in *Le Tour du Monde*, who saw him in his late years, as “an amiable old man, abundant and sprightly in his talk, and astonishingly fresh. Age had not impaired his powers, and for years he appeared to us at each visit to be renewing his youth.” Among works other than geographical which he published were a *History of the Revolution* and a *History of Napoleon I.*; nor must we omit to mention also a translation of the complete works of Sir Walter Scott.

Admiral Sir GEORGE RICHARDS, K.C.B., F.R.S.—Admiral Richards, who signalled himself by carrying out a long series of maritime explorations, and by rendering other services of great benefit to his profession, died on the 14th of November 1896. He was the son of a captain in the Royal Navy, and was born in the year 1820. He entered the navy at the age of twelve, and after having been for two years in the West Indies, served for five years as a midshipman in the expedition which, first under the command of Admiral Beechey, and afterwards of Sir E. Belcher, made surveys among the islands of the Pacific and along the western shores of North America. In 1840 he took part in the operations of the war with China, and two years later, when promoted to the rank of lieutenant, was employed under Admiral Sullivan, first in surveying the Falkland Islands, and then in the naval operations carried on in the Parana and Uruguay rivers in 1845 and 1846, in the latter of which years he became a commander. He served next under Admiral Stokes on the survey of the coasts of New Zealand, and on his return to England in 1852 was appointed to the *Assistance*, one of the four vessels which were despatched on the Franklin search expedition. This vessel, which was commanded by Belcher, wintered in Northumberland Sound, and here Commander Richards, travelling by sledge, explored the channels

in that locality. In his expeditions over the ice he covered no fewer than 2000 miles. On his return to England after these important services he was promoted, in 1854, to the rank of captain. Two years later we find him again in the Pacific carrying out surveys of Vancouver Island and of the coasts in its neighbourhood. On his voyage homeward, which was taken in 1863, by Australia and Torres Straits, he made surveys of these parts by the way. On his return he was appointed Hydrographer to the Admiralty, and in 1870 he attained the rank of rear-admiral, in 1877 that of vice-admiral, and in 1884 that of admiral. He was made C.B. in 1871, and seventeen years later K.C.B. After his retirement from the service he interested himself in the promotion of telegraphic enterprise.

Sir RUTHERFORD ALCOCK, K.C.B., D.C.L.—Sir Rutherford Alcock, who had made for himself a great name both as a diplomatist and as an Oriental scholar and geographer, died in London on the 2nd of November last at the advanced age of eighty-eight. He was born in that city in 1809, and having there studied medicine in King's College, he served as an army doctor in the British auxiliary forces which were employed in Spain and Portugal during the troubles which convulsed these countries in 1833 and the year following. Ten years later he proceeded to the East on receiving the appointment of consul at Fu-chau, a place which had not long before been thrown open to foreign commerce. Two years afterwards he was promoted to the consulship at Shanghai, where he remained for eight years. During his tenure of this office disturbances, excited by the Taeping rebellion, broke out at Shanghai; but the insurgents, though successful in capturing the native part of the town, did not venture to attack the foreign quarter in face of the preparations which the consul had organised for its defence. In 1854 he was transferred to Canton, where the quarrel between Sir John Bowring and the Chinese officials about the opening of the port to foreigners had already broken out. Before this quarrel, however, had its upshot in war, the consul had taken his departure home on leave of absence.

Mr. Alcock again left England for the East to serve in Japan as the first British minister to that country, Lord Elgin having in 1858 made with it a treaty which secured the admission into it of foreigners. As the Japanese were in general violently opposed to this innovation, the minister's position here was one of extreme difficulty. He was resolute, however, in maintaining the rights which the treaty had secured for his countrymen, and he never suffered any wrong or outrage done them to go unredressed or unpunished. His firmness was at the same time tempered with tact and judgment, and so high an opinion came to be formed of the merits of his administration that he was made, in 1862, a K.C.B. His energies were not, by any means, all absorbed in diplomacy. He furthered the interests of geography by travelling in various directions into the interior parts of Japan, which, up to his time, were all but totally unknown. He was observant, also, of the manners and customs and arts of the natives, and studied

their language and literature. To the *Journal* of the Royal Geographical Society he contributed papers, in which he recorded the results of his explorations, and described such subjects of interest as fell under his observation in the course of his travels. In 1863 he published his famous work, entitled *The Capital of the Tycoon*, and five years later another work in which he gave an account of the *Art and Art Industries of Japan*. He wrote also a book on the *Elements of Japanese Grammar*, and another which contained familiar *Dialogues in Japanese*, accompanied with translations both in French and English. In 1865 Sir Rutherford went back to China in the capacity of British minister at Peking, and in 1871 he retired from service on pension. In 1876 he was elected President of the Royal Geographical Society, an office which he held for two years.

J. THEODORE BENT.—Mr. Theodore Bent, so widely known for his geographical and archæological discoveries, was cut off in the prime of life on the 5th of May last after his return to London from an expedition which, in company with his accomplished and devoted wife, he had made from Aden into a part of the interior of Arabia not previously explored. His death was caused by an attack of pneumonia supervening on a malarious fever which he had contracted in the course of that expedition. He was born near Leeds in 1852, and was educated at Malvern Wells, Repton School, and Oxford University. After his marriage, which took place in 1877, he made annual excursions with his wife, who was a daughter of the late Mr. Hall Dare, D.L., to out-of-the-way places where there was a likelihood of ruined sites being discovered. His attention seems to have first been directed to Italian history as a subject for his pen, and having visited San Marino he wrote a small volume on that little Republic. He travelled next in Greece and Asia Minor, and published the results of his observations and excavations in a pleasantly written volume called *The Cyclades; or, Life among the Insular Greeks*. Having afterwards visited the Bahrein Islands, he made them the subject of a paper which appeared in the *Journal* of the Royal Geographical Society. His best-known piece of work is perhaps his investigation of the Zimbabwe ruins in Mashonaland, which he and his wife visited in 1891. He examined next the monuments of antiquity which exist at Axum, the capital in old days of Abyssinia. In one of the three expeditions which he undertook into Arabia, he explored the beautiful valley of Hadramaut, which, at some distance, runs parallel with the southern coast of Arabia. In the course of last winter he did some considerable exploring work in the island of Socotra, which lies in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Arabia and is but little known. The writer of a notice of Mr. Bent's death in the *Athenæum* concludes it in these words:—"His friends will long lament one so kind, genial, and unassuming, who never sought for selfish advantage, and was always eager to profit by the knowledge of those more learned than himself." Not a few members of our Society will remember the favourable impression he made when he lectured before them in 1895

on Southern Arabia. It need hardly be said that as his journeys were generally made to regions unvisited and inhospitable, they were attended with hardships more or less severe, and were sometimes even made at the peril of his life.

NEY ELIAS, C.I.E.—This distinguished traveller and geographer, who made extensive explorations in China, Mongolia, the Pamirs, Sikkim, Burmah, and elsewhere, died in London on the 31st May last. He was born in Kent in 1844, and educated partly in France and in Germany. Destined for a commercial life, he went to the East in 1866 to serve a firm engaged in the China and Japan trade. Before leaving England, his love of geography had led him to take lessons in astronomy and surveying, and he was thus able, when he afterwards travelled, to determine positions by astronomical observations, and to make surveys for the proper mapping, as occasion served, of the countries through which he passed. After he had been three years in China, he wrote for the Royal Geographical Society a paper on the diversion of the Hoang-Ho or Yellow river into a new channel between the years 1851 and 1853. This paper and the chart with it, which embodied the results of three journeys made on separate occasions, received a warm tribute of praise from Sir R. Murchison, who was at that time the President of the Society. In 1872 he started on the memorable expedition which he made across Western Mongolia, from the Wall of China to the Russian frontier, and from thence to Nijni-Novgorod, a distance in all of about 4800 miles. Through all this route he carried on a continuous series of observations, and he was rewarded by being presented with the Royal Geographical Society's *Founders' Gold Medal*. Early in 1874 Mr. Elias, on the recommendation of Sir H. Rawlinson and Sir Bartle Frere, was appointed an extra *attaché* in the Foreign Office at Calcutta, and in September of the same year Assistant to the Resident at Mandalay in Upper Burmah. Not long afterwards he was instructed to join the British Overland Mission to China as second in command to its leader, Colonel H. Browne. The mission, it is well known, was repulsed after it had advanced only a few marches beyond the border, and was altogether a disastrous failure. No blame, however, could be attached to Mr. Elias, who discharged with consummate ability all the duties which devolved upon him, and gave good advice which was not taken. His next sphere of service was in Ladak, which he reached by the end of 1877. Here, as there was little to be done besides ibex shooting, he prosecuted his researches into the history of Central Asia. Two years afterwards, however, the Indian Government, desirous of establishing good relations with the Chinese, who had re-occupied Kashgar after the death of Yakub Beg, sent Mr. Elias into Eastern Turkestan on one mission after another—now to Kashgar and now to Yarkand—so that he had several times to cross and recross the Karakorum. In 1885 he left the latter city to explore the Pamirs, where he fixed positions and altitudes, and settled also the long-disputed question of the true sources of the Oxus. Having reached the camp of the British Boundary Commission near Herat, he returned thence to India by way of Balkh and Chitral.

Mr. Elias was next employed as head of a Commission for settling the political geography of the Shan States, which lay between Burmah and Siam, and when this work had been completed he was attached to the Sikkim expedition. Towards the end of 1891 he was appointed to Meshed as consul-general for Khorasan and Seistan, and held this post till late in 1896, when his broken health obliged him to take furlough and return to England. Here he spent his leisure in preparing works on the history of the Moguls. His death, which was sudden, was the result of blood-poisoning. Mr. Elias was a man of fine character and attractive qualities, though of a somewhat reserved demeanour. His friend, Mr. S. Wheeler, thus concludes an able notice of his life and work:—"The splendid proofs of his courage and endurance, his keen judgments and wide attainments, are marked for geographers on the map of Asia."

Admiral Sir ALEXANDER MILNE.—We record with great regret that this distinguished Admiral, who was one of the Vice-Presidents of our Society, died at the end of December 1896 from the effects of a chill which brought on an attack of pneumonia. He was born in 1806, and was the second son of Admiral Sir David Milne. He entered the naval service, and after a period of service at foreign stations attained the rank of commander in 1830. Some years afterwards he was engaged in the suppression of the slave-trade in the West Indies, and then in protecting the fisheries of Newfoundland and Labrador. He became captain in 1839 and was a Junior Lord of the Admiralty from 1847 to 1859. In the year following he was appointed commander-in-chief on the North American Station, and in the course of this service succeeded by his tact in maintaining good relations between this country and the States. He became some years subsequently commander-in-chief of the Mediterranean and Channel squadrons. After his retirement from the service he employed himself usefully in committee work for a variety of schemes, such as the defence of the colonies and the organising of the Naval Exhibition.

ERNEST GILES.—Born in Bristol, Mr. Giles migrated in his childhood to Australia, where his family settled in Melbourne. At that time the exploration of the interior of the island continent was being vigorously carried on by several well-known men, and no doubt the narratives he heard of the expeditions then in progress stimulated Giles, who had a natural taste for bush life, to emulate their exploits. Between 1872 and 1883 Giles made six important journeys in South and West Australia. Twice he crossed the western part of the continent, by routes running to the north and south of Forrest's course in 1870. To him we owe the discovery of Lake Amadeus, Queen Victoria Springs, and many other features that are now familiar to the geographer. The cost of most of these expeditions was borne by Sir Thomas Elder.

The results of his exploration Mr. Giles made known by several works, the best known being, probably, *Australia twice traversed*, published in

1889. The Royal Geographical Society conferred on him its Gold Medal as a recognition of his signal services to geographic research.

Mr. Giles died at Coolgardie, last October, at the age of fifty-eight.

THOMAS BRUMBY JOHNSTON.—Mr. Johnston, who died on September 9th, in his eighty-fourth year, was head of the firm of W. and A. K. Johnston. He was author of the *Historical Geography of the Clans of Scotland*, and edited several editions of the *Royal Atlas*, first compiled by his brother, Dr. Alex. Keith Johnston. Mr. Johnston was a member of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society from its foundation, and had served on its council. The appointment of geographer to the Queen, which he held since 1877, has been conferred on his son, Mr. G. Harvey Johnston.

JOHN LOWE NICOLL.—More than fifteen years ago Mr. Nicoll went out to Nyasaland in connection with the Blantyre mission. He afterwards entered the employment of the African Lakes Company, and during this period fought in the war against the Arabs of north Nyasa. In 1889-90, as assistant to Sir Harry Johnston, he founded the Abercorn station on Lake Tanganika, and extended our knowledge of the fauna and flora of the country by making collections. Latterly he had been in the service of the British Central Africa Protectorate, and at the time of his death, in February last, he was vice-consul in South Nyasaland. He became a member of this Society in 1891.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROYAL SCOTTISH GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

MEETING OF COUNCIL.

At a meeting held on Jan. 19th, the following lady and gentlemen were elected members of the Society :—

Mack, Miss J. T.	Masterton, Jas.
Darling, Alex.	Methven, J. Cox.
Davidson, Prof. W. L., LL.D.	Robertson, D. C.
Grieve, Robt.	Thomson, Major W. Anstruther.
Jackson, Chas.	

LECTURES DELIVERED IN JANUARY.

On Friday, Jan. 14th, Mr. A. J. McMillan lectured in Edinburgh on British Columbia and Yukon. Sir Thomas Clark, Bart., presided.

Mr. McMillan addressed the Glasgow Branch on the evening of the 13th, Mr. W. F. G. Anderson presiding at the meeting.

Owing to his literary occupations, Mr. Jackson, of the Jackson-Harmsworth Expedition, was unable to address the Society last month, as had been arranged.