



Obituary Notice of Deputy Surgeon-General Jameson, C.I.E.

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this was because of the constant, watchful ministering care of his wife (his own cousin). He received the Royal and Copley Medals from the Royal Society; the Wollaston Palladium Medal from the Geological Society; as well as honorary titles from the Prussian Government, and from the Academy of Vienna.

His extreme candour was an outstanding characteristic. This was well shown by an annual contribution to the funds of the South American Missionary Society; the result, it is said, of a discussion on the futility of such missions between himself and a pious young lieutenant, during the voyage of the "Beagle;" his opponent having shown him, after thirty years, what good had been done by Christian missions amongst these savages.

Darwin's death took place on Wednesday, 19th April 1882, at his house near Farnborough, in Kent, in his seventy-fourth year. His funeral took place on the 26th April, and his body was interred in Westminster Abbey. Amongst the numerous mourners present were dukes, earls, lords, baronets, knights, canons, clergymen, professors, naturalists, students.

Obituary Notice of Deputy Surgeon-General Jameson, C.I.E.

By HUGH CLEGHORN, M.D., F.L.S.

(Read 13th July 1882.)

WILLIAM JAMESON, F.R.S.E., for many years Superintendent of the Government Botanical Gardens in the North-West Provinces of India, was one of our oldest members; he attained celebrity by the efforts he made for the promotion of tea culture in North India, and his name will always be associated with the successful establishment of this new industry in our great Eastern Empire.

Mr Jameson was born at Leith in 1815, and received his early education at the High School, and his medical training at the University of Edinburgh, where his distinguished uncle, Professor Robert Jameson, filled the chair of Natural History for half a century from 1804 to 1854. While the two nephews Lawrence and William, the subject of our sketch, assisted in the class and in arranging and keeping

the Museum, William imbibed a love for natural history which characterised all his subsequent career.

He passed Surgeon in 1838, and on August 30th of the same year he was appointed to the Bengal Medical Service and proceeded to Calcutta. The experience Mr Jameson had gained in the Edinburgh University Museum was not long of being utilised in his new sphere. Soon after reaching Calcutta he was called to officiate as Curator of the Museum of the Asiatic Society, and a report of the state in which he found it, with suggestions for placing it on an improved basis, was presented to the Society. Mr Prinsep, editor of the *Bengal Asiatic Society's Journal*, thus writes of Mr Jameson's report (vol. viii. p. 241):—

“During the few weeks Mr Jameson held the office of Curator, his exertions have accomplished more than could be readily believed in reducing the chaotic materials of the Museum into systematic arrangement and disposition. His suggestions will doubtless receive the attentive consideration they are so strongly entitled to, and we trust before long that our Museum will be guaranteed from such reproaches as Mr Jameson now too justly inflicts on it.”

Mr Jameson's first destination after a short residence in Calcutta was Cawnpore, where he was attached to a battery of artillery; but he was soon directed to proceed to Amballa to join the Governor-General's Agency, under Mr, afterwards Sir, George Russell Clerk.

In 1839 we find Mr Jameson communicating a paper to the *Journal of the Asiatic Society*, vol. viii. p. 321, on what was in his early days his favourite branch of natural history. The paper bears the title “On the Geographic Distribution of the *Vulturidæ*, *Falconidæ*, and *Strigidæ*; being the first of a series of memoirs intended to illustrate the Geographic Distribution of the Ornithological Kingdom.”

In 1841 Mr Jameson was Civil Surgeon at Amballa, but his scientific reputation led to his being selected by Mr G. R. Clerk, Envoy to the Court of Lahore, to ascertain the cause of the great “débacle” of the Indus, which had taken place a few months before (June 1841), and caused vast destruction to life and property. Mr Jameson was also to visit Iskardo and Gilgit, and to report on the geology and zoology of those parts of the Punjab through which

his course lay. Unfortunately an attack made upon him and the escort with which he had been provided by the Maharaja Shere Sing, when he was examining the Khuttuck Hills, prevented the fulfilment of the main object of the expedition. He lost everything he possessed, including note books and specimens, excepting the clothes he wore, and nine of his servants and contingent guard were killed or desperately wounded. He himself was taken prisoner and kept for four months in the Kohat fort, until Col. Mackeson arranged for his liberation on ransom. The results of this interesting mission are contained in a report on the Geology, Zoology, &c., of the Punjab and part of Afghanistan, in *Jour. As. Soc. Beng.* (vol. xi. p. 183).

In the following year Mr Jameson was rewarded for these services by being appointed to officiate as Superintendent of the Botanic Garden at Saharunpore in succession to Dr Falconer, who had been seriously ill, and who was removed to Calcutta. Soon after he was confirmed in that appointment, and thus he entered on that work with which his name will ever be associated, viz., tea cultivation in North India.

Under Lord Dalhousie's enlightened Government, Mr Jameson's proposals for the introduction of tea culture received great encouragement. Tea plants, tea seeds, even tea manufacturers, were imported from Chusan, Ningpo, and other districts of China, while plantations on a large scale were formed at Deyrah Doon, on the hills near Mussouri, in Kumaon, in Gurhwal, and in the Punjab in the Kangra valley, and as far north-west as Hazara. Gradually the attention of settlers was attracted to this new industry, and tea seeds and plants were distributed to all who were prepared to engage in their cultivation.

We let Jameson's enthusiasm speak for itself in his report for 1855:—

“The tea plant is now thriving over $4\frac{1}{2}$ degrees of latitude, and 83 degrees of longitude; or from Hazara in the west, to the Kali Nuddi in Kumaon in the east, and from Deyrah Doon in the south to Ramaserai in the north, over a tract containing upwards of 30,000 square miles. In this mighty tract there is a sufficient quantity of land fitted for tea cultivation, as, if so used, would not only produce teas capable of supplying the whole of India, but the whole European market. The crops now grown in the hills yield but a

small return to the zemindars, and, as already stated, they look to other sources than the sale of the produce of their lands, in many quarters, to procure means to pay their revenue. The Kumaon and Gurhwal provinces, covering a tract of upwards of 19,000 square miles, yield only about two lacs of rupees annually to the state and that, too, with difficulty collected, showing the poverty of the country. Tea on the other hand, is a highly remunerative crop, and occupies the time and attention of millions of beings in the adjoining kingdom of China, and is the means of yielding a large revenue to the state. India possesses within itself capabilities equally advantageous, in having abundance of land fitted for tea cultivation, an unlimited supply of cheap labour, admirable rivers for transmitting the produce to good marts, and last, though not least, a climate equally well fitted for the growth of the plant. In China, the priests carry on the trade of tea making with as much zeal as the lay portion of the community. To them in the Kumaon and Gurhwal provinces we owe in a measure the miserable state of the peasantry, as nowhere is their influence more powerful, and that too directed against any innovation. By the press it has been stated that the land fitted for tea cultivation was limited and labourers scanty. Both, however, are great errors. Nor, as already stated, is it necessary to occupy lands now used in growing grains; let but the forest land and the waste land be employed, and from them alone will be produced a supply equal to the consumption of Europe. The thriving state of the Paoree plantation, which four years ago was an extensive oak and rhododendron jungle, shows how admirably this land so uselessly employed (as but few of the virgin forests can be made available for their timber, owing to the inaccessible nature of the country, and impracticable roads), is fitted for tea cultivation. Let tea, therefore, be encouraged in these places, and a produce will be reared which will yield means to open up the mountainous regions. I have pointed out certain routes by which the teas could be removed to the plains, and I may also add, that with a little skilful engineering, a road might be made from Hurdwar to Nitti, the frontier British town, fitted for camels and bullocks. Difficulties there are none, barring the bridging of a few streams. This great road would act like a great artery in developing the resources of the western British hills, and with a little trouble and tact on the part of the Assistant Commissioner, the shawl wool, which is of such vast importance to the manufacturers in the great British towns of Loodianah, Amritsur, Lahore, Julalpore, Noorpore, &c., might be brought down by this route and sold at a cheap rate, and free of the heavy duties levied on it when imported through the passes belonging to the Jummo Raja. The great breeding district of the shawl-wool goats is in the vast plains of Tibet, immediately behind the British passes. The breeders have more than once brought down quantities of wool to Sreenuggur, but at a loss, and they still bring down a small quantity to the Bageswur fair. But were the road from Nitti to Hurdwar to be opened up and fitted for bullocks and camels, not only would tea be exported to the plains at a cheap rate, but also

the shawl-wool buyers and other traders would be induced to frequent Sreenuggur, and thus induce the Tibet traders to bring their wool to the British territory, instead of looking for a market in Cashmeer, by the lengthy and circuitous route of Leh, &c. For the development of the trade of Tibet one great road is being opened up through Simla, Rampore, &c., but nature has already, as it were, marked out the Gurhwal route as one of the great arteries by which the trade of the Trans-Himalayan countries should flow into British India, and it only requires to be a little more opened up to cause it to be more generally frequented. By the Bhotias our teas are highly appreciated, and for them they are prepared to barter their produce. As a mart, therefore, in the great high road for them and other merchants to frequent, a more appropriate place could not be met with than Sreenuggur, distant six miles from the factory of Paorea. It, however, can never come into general use until the road is made."

Mr J. H. Batten, of the Bengal Civil Service, formerly Commissioner of Kumaon, thus epitomises Jameson's work in India :—" William Jameson came to India with all the *prestige* derived from the reputation in science of his celebrated uncle, and right nobly has he sustained and extended, from Edinburgh and Europe to the Himalaya and Asia, the honours of his family.

" Having assumed full management everywhere as superintendent, Jameson paid his first visit to Kumaon in April 1843; and made his first official report on the tea nurseries of that province in February 1844. From that date until the final abandonment of the Government exploitation, and the successful establishment of private enterprise, the progress of the whole cultivation of the tea plant, and of the production and disposal of the manufactured tea, formed the subject of the most complete and exhaustive reports, furnished annually by the superintendent, and published at first in the *Transactions of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of India*, and, after the introduction of the system of annual administration reports by the several governments of British India, in the official records of the North-Western Provinces."

" The year 1847 was an important year for the tea experiment in the Himalaya. Dr Jameson submitted a full report on the subject,* in which he reviewed the progress of

* This report, illustrated with numerous drawings, was printed and extensively circulated by Government, and subsequently published by authority (No. xxiii.) for general information.

the operations, giving the results of his experience as to soil, elevation, and system of cultivation found most suitable in the districts under his superintendence; and appended a lucid account of the methods adopted in manufacturing green and black teas, packing tea, preparing sheet lead, buildings, tea stores, implements in use, &c., making also valuable suggestions for the improvement of plantations" (Nassau Lees, LL.D., p. 51).

The difficulties Jameson encountered and the great results that followed his labours are thus alluded to by Col. Nassau Lees, in his *Cultivation of Tea in India*, (p. 61):—"It is impossible, if due consideration be allowed for the natural difficulties Jameson had to contend with, the bigoted prejudices he had to overcome, and above all, for the entire want of anything like *sound* local experience to guide him, to over-estimate the value of Dr Jameson's services in connection with the cultivation of tea in the Himalaya Mountains; and the highest credit is due to him for the energetic zeal with which he pushed on, and followed through all its vicissitudes, the development of an experiment, of the success of which he alone from the commencement never had any misgivings. A conscientious discharge of his duty, and a high sense of the great natural importance of the interesting experiment which he had been entrusted by Government to superintend, were doubtless the main incentives to Dr Jameson's exertions; at the same time (says Col. Nassau Lees) it is proper to record the great value of his services to tea interests in North-West India, and to point out to those who are now profiting so largely by his labours, the great obligation they are under to him. In the complete success which finally crowned Dr Jameson's labours, he had his reward, and though, from the general distrust in his prognostications, and the consequent shyness of private speculators to aid in the experiment, he had the mortification to see other parts of India (Assam and Cachar) shoot ahead of the districts under his superintendence, it must have been gratifying to him that experience has verified in all important particulars the principles laid down by him in 1847, when tea cultivation was almost in its infancy, and a satisfaction to him that tea planters in all parts of India

are at last beginning to awake to the value of his early reports."

Jameson had the satisfaction before he died of seeing his lifelong labours crowned with success, and tea forming one of the staple commodities cultivated on the lower Himalaya; the many plantations affording occupation to thousands of the peasantry, and prosperity introduced to what were previously waste and almost uninhabited regions. In acknowledgment of his valuable services, the Viceroy conferred on Jameson the distinction of Companion of the Indian Empire.

On the 31st December 1875, Mr Jameson retired from Saharunpore to a small tea garden at Deyrah Doon, which he had purchased from Government, and there he ended his useful life on 18th March 1882. His widow resides at Deyrah Doon, and two sons who survive are in the Staff Corps of the Indian Army.

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF MEMOIRS AND OFFICIAL REPORTS.

On the Distribution of European Birds.	<i>Jour. As. Soc. Beng.</i> , viii. 21.
Report on the Museum of the Asiatic Society. 1839.	<i>Jour. As. Soc. Beng.</i> , viii. 241.
On the Geographic Distribution of the <i>Vulturidae</i> , <i>Falconidae</i> , and <i>Strigidae</i> , being the first of a series of memoirs intended to illustrate the Geographic Distribution of the Ornithological Kingdom.	<i>Jour. As. Soc. Beng.</i> , viii. 321.
Report of his Deputation by Government to Examine the Effects of the Great Inundation of the Indus. March 1842.	<i>Jour. As. Soc. Beng.</i> , xii. 183.
Report on the Geology, Zoology, &c., of the Punjab, and of a part of Afghanistan. June, 1842.	<i>Jour. As. Soc. Beng.</i> , xii. 192.
Report on the Cultivation and Manufacture of Tea in Kemaon. 1844.	<i>Jour. Ag. Hort. Soc. Ind.</i> , ii. 323.
Report on the Cultivation and Manufacture of Tea in Kemaon and Gurhwal. 1845.	<i>Jour. Ag. Hort. Soc. Ind.</i> , iv. 173.
Progress of Tea Culture in Kemaon, Gurhwal, and the Dehra valley. Cultivation of the Hop Plant in the Himalaya. 1846.	<i>Jour. A. H. Soc. Ind.</i> , v. App. 147.
On the Tea Plantations in Kemaon and Gurhwal, the Manufacture of Black and Green Teas, with Account of Implements used (figures). 1847.	<i>Jour. A. H. Soc. Ind.</i> , vi. 81.
Report on China Tea Plants (from Mr Fortune in Ward's Cases) and on American Fruit Trees (imported with a cargo of ice) received at Saharunpore. May 1850.	<i>Jour. A. H. Soc. Ind.</i> , vii. 175.
Results of the Trial at the Hill Station of Mussooree of the North American Fruit Trees imported in Ice. 1853.	<i>Jour. A. H. Soc. Ind.</i> , viii. 152.

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| On the Physical Aspect of the Punjab, its Agriculture and Botany. 1854. | } | <i>Jour. A. H. Soc. Ind.</i> , viii. App. 162. |
| On the Cultivation of Tea in the District of Kangra. April 1854. | | <i>Ed. N. Phil. Jour.</i> , lvii. 76. |
| Papers on the Tea Factories and Plantations in Kemaon and Gurhwal. May 1854. | | <i>Agra.</i> (Published by Government.) |
| On the Culture of Flax in the North-West Provinces for the sake of its Fibre. Jan. 1855. | | <i>Jour. A. H. Soc. Ind.</i> , ix. App. 31. |
| Papers regarding the Cultivation of Hemp in India. March 1855. | | <i>Agra.</i> (Published by Government.) |
| Report of Botanical Gardens of the Government North-Western Provinces. 4to, p. 429. 1855. | | <i>Roorkee.</i> |
| Report on the Present State and Future Prospects of Tea Cultivation in the North-Western Provinces and Punjab. Calcutta, 1857. | | <i>Government of India Records</i> (Home Dept.), No. xxiii. |
| Correspondence regarding Tea Plantations in the Punjab Provinces. Lahore, 1859. | | <i>Selections from the Correspondence of the Punjab Government</i> , vol. iv., No. 2. |
| Correspondence respecting the Cultivation of Flax in the North-West Provinces. 1861. | | <i>Jour. A. H. Soc. Ind.</i> , xi. 597. |
| Letter to Professor Balfour, dated Saharunpore. July 9, 1863. | | <i>Bot. Soc. Trans.</i> , viii. 66. |

Obituary Notice of Joseph Decaisne, Member of the Institute of France, Honorary Fellow. By ANDREW TAYLOR.

(Read 8th June 1882.)

JOSEPH DECAISNE died on the 8th February 1882, aged 73. He was a native of Brussels, the celebrated Charles Morren being his playmate. Both were eager butterfly hunters as children; both, when men, became leaders in horticulture, one in France, the other in Belgium. He entered the *Jardin des Plantes* at the age of seventeen, and gradually worked his way up till he succeeded Mirbel as Professor de Culture and Director of the Garden. A working gardener in the department of the Museum in 1821, M. Decaisne was elected President of the Academy of Sciences in 1864, and a Member of the Royal Society of London in 1880. He was enrolled in our list in 1867.*

Decaisne's attachment to his beloved *Jardin des Plantes* was a life passion; and there, of course, we look for the results of his long studies. He managed this establishment, not on the idea of its being a public recreation ground for tired city holiday seekers, but rather as a

* A portrait and notice of his labours are in *Gardener's Chronicle*, 1871, p. 377.