

OBITUARY NOTICES.

M. ADRIEN BARBIER DE MEYNARD.

BORN FEBRUARY 6, 1826. DIED AT THE END OF MARCH, 1908.

M. BARBIER DE MEYNARD, who was for forty-five years one of the best known Orientalists of France, alike by reason of his numerous and valuable contributions to Oriental learning, his close connection with the Société Asiatique, the Académie française, the Collège de France, and the École des Langues Orientales Vivantes, and his unflinching kindness and hospitality to all who sought his help, was born at sea, between Constantinople and Marseilles, on February 6, 1826. His family had long been domiciled in the East, and for service in the East he was destined from childhood. He was educated at the Lycée Louis-le-Grand, where he held a scholarship from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as one of the 'Jeunes de langues,' as the French student-interpreters for the Near East were then called, and was one of the favourite pupils of the eminent Jules Mohl, whose chair he subsequently held at the Collège de France.

His first consular appointment was at Jerusalem, whither he was sent about 1852, and one of his earliest communications to the *Journal Asiatique* (an account of Muḥammad b. Ḥasan ash-Shaybání, an Arabian author of the fifth century of the Hijra) was published about the same time. In 1854 he accompanied the Comte de Gobineau to Persia, and remained for two years attached to the French Legation at Tihrán in the capacity of Dragoman, or Oriental Secretary. His first important publication, the *Dictionnaire géographique, historique, et*

littéraire de la Perse et des contrées adjacentes, which is essentially a translation of that portion of Yáqút's great geography, the *Mu'jamu'l-Buldán*, which refers to Persia, supplemented from other sources, appeared in 1861, and was followed during the two succeeding years by the text and translation (in two vols.) of part of Mu'ínu'd-Dín Muhammad's history of Herát.

In December, 1863, on the death of Dubeux, Barbier de Meynard was elected Professor of Turkish at the *École des Langues Orientales Vivantes*, with which, during the remaining forty-five years of his life, he was so closely connected, and of which, on the death of the admirable M. Ch. Schefer, he became the Director. These two great scholars, who added so much to the lustre of French Orientalism, were both elected Members of the Academy on the same day—November 29, 1878—and thenceforth collaborated with Defrémery in the publication of the Oriental historians of the Crusades, of which series the fourth volume, containing the text and translation of the *Kitábu'r-Rawdatayn*, was Barbier de Meynard's work.

It is impossible here to give a complete list of the many and varied papers, all interesting and suggestive, communicated by Barbier de Meynard to the *Journal Asiatique* during his long and active career, but there is hardly a volume of that periodical which does not contain something of note from his pen. Of his independent works mention must especially be made of his translation of the *Bústán* of Sa'dí (1880); his great *Dictionnaire turc-français* (1881-6); his edition and translation of the *Muríju'dh-Dhahab* of al-Mas'údí (1861-87), in which Pavet de Courteille collaborated with him; his *Trois Comédies persans* (1886-9), published in collaboration with the talented and unfortunate Stanislas Guyard; and the last volume (vol. vii) of the splendid edition and translation of Firdawsí's *Sháh-náma*, which Jules Mohl did not live to complete.

Jules Mohl died in January, 1876, and Barbier de Meynard was nominated to succeed him as Professor of Persian at the Collège de France on May 9 of the same year. He opened his course with a very interesting and instructive *Étude sur la Poésie en Perse*, which was published at the end of the same year, and during the next eight or nine years lectured on such books as the *Bústán*, the *Sháh-náma*, *Ways u Rámin*, the *Anwár-i-Suhaylí*, etc. On the death of Stanislas Guyard (who held the chair of Arabic at the Collège de France) in 1884, Barbier de Meynard was nominated to replace him, and was transferred from the Persian to the Arabic professorship. As Arabic professor he lectured on such works as the *Kitábu'l-Aghání*, the *Mu'allaqát*, the *Diwán* of Muslim, the *Maqámát* of Násif al-Yázijí, etc.

Barbier de Meynard's life, from the time when he left the Consular Service to take up his work at the École des Langues Orientales Vivantes in 1863 until its close, was the quiet but active life of a teacher, scholar, and man of letters. He was the soul of the Société Asiatique; and his love for the École was such that when on his deathbed he was informed that his appointment as Director, of which the period had come to an end, had been renewed, he exclaimed with satisfaction, "Then I shall die at the École!" I cannot better conclude this brief and inadequate notice than with the words of M. Levasseur, Administrateur du Collège de France—"On calomnie souvent le caractère français hors de France en le traitant de frivole et de dissipé, et il arrive parfois que des Français contribuent à accrédi-ter cette calomnie. À des étrangers superficiellement informés de nos mœurs j'ai souvent dit: 'Essayez d'entrer chez nous dans l'intimité des hommes d'étude et vous jugerez mieux la France.' On aurait pu les envoyer dans le cabinet de Barbier de Meynard."

EDWARD G. BROWNE.