

III. OBITUARY NOTICES.

Dr. Alois Sprenger.—We regret to have to announce the death of Dr. Alois Sprenger, one of our Honorary Members. The following short account of his career is taken from the *Homeward Mail* of Jan. 29th: “Born Sept. 3, 1813, at Nassereuth, in Tyrol, he was sent at the age of nineteen to the University of Vienna, where he devoted himself to the study of medicine and of the Oriental languages until the year 1836, when he went to Paris, and shortly afterwards came to London, where, after rendering considerable service to the Earl of Munster in his projected work on the *Military History of the Mahomedan Nations* (a work which has never yet been made public), he obtained an appointment in the medical service of the East India Company, and went to Calcutta in 1843. Shortly after this he was appointed principal of the Mahomedan College at Delhi, where he remained until 1848, when he was sent as assistant resident to the Court of Lucknow. During his residence at Lucknow he compiled a catalogue of the MSS. in the library of the King of Oude (which were subsequently destroyed during the Mutiny). The catalogue, or rather a portion of it, was printed at Calcutta in 1854, the rest having apparently been lost. From 1851 to 1854 we find him stationed at Calcutta as Persian translator to the Government, and principal of the Mahomedan College at Hooghli, and of the Calcutta ‘Madrasa,’ having in the meantime devoted himself, during a short leave of absence on account of ill-health, to the collection of material for his long-projected ‘*Life of Mohammed*,’ of which the first volume (in English) was printed at Allahabad in 1851. He retired from the Service in 1858, and returned to Europe, where he passed the remainder of his days. He died at Heidelberg on Dec. 19 last, in the eighty-first year of his age. India is indebted to Dr. Sprenger for the first vernacular paper printed in that country—namely, a weekly

periodical somewhat in the style of our once popular English *Penny Magazine*, which was printed at his lithographic press (in Hindustani) during his residence in Delhi."

William Henry Waddington.—William Henry Waddington died on Saturday, the 13th of January, 1894, in his private hotel, 31, Rue Dumont d'Urville, in Paris. By the death of Mr. Waddington science has lost a good scholar, society a thorough gentleman, France a faithful servant.

Waddington was born at Saint-Remi-sur-l'Avre (Eure-et-Loir) on the 11th of December, 1826. He belonged to a wealthy family of spinners, of English origin. Waddington's grandfather had settled in France as early as 1781, when he created the manufactory which was the source of the family's fortune, and his father was naturalized a Frenchman in 1816. Waddington was educated in turn in Paris, at the Lycée St. Louis, at Rugby, and at Cambridge, where he graduated at Trinity College. I believe I am not far out of the truth in saying that the future antiquary rowed once in the crew of the "Light Blues" in the University Boat Race.

I need not mention here that Waddington entered political life after the fall of the Empire, at first as a Deputy and afterwards as a Senator of the Département de l'Aisne. Twice a minister (1873 and 1876), once a prime minister (1879); he was (18th July, 1883) appointed French Ambassador at the Court of St. James. He had hardly retired from that high position when he died.

Waddington's first travel to the East took place in 1852, shortly after his marriage; his young wife, who died soon after their return to France, accompanied him. During nine months he visited Asia Minor, collecting ancient coins and medals; he brought back with him a large number of them—basis of a large collection, the largest, indeed, of coins of this particular region—which, being yearly increased, cannot be estimated at less than £20,000. The last collection of so great an importance is that of the late Duke de Luynes. Of course, his deep knowledge of

the Greek language and literature drew his attention to Greek medals, but it was impossible to neglect the rich Lycian and Aramaic series of Asia Minor. Waddington aimed at giving a general work of the numismatics of this part of Asia; it was his lifelong labour, and he has given some proofs of his high industry in several articles in the *Revue Numismatique*. These articles were reprinted in three parts in 1854-61-67.

Numismatics shared with Epigraphy Waddington's serious leisure. When Philippe Le Bas died (16th May, 1860), the Academy des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres asked him to continue the publication of Greek and Latin texts brought back from Asia Minor by this savant. He gave himself up to this labour of love, and his Commentary on the Edict of Diocletian is most remarkable. In fact, this chapter, reprinted in 1864, is a real picture of the economical state of the Roman Empire at the beginning of the fourth century of our era.

Mr. Waddington made a second journey, landing at Beyrouth in the spring of 1861, and he devoted himself to the exploration of the parts little known of Syria. He thoroughly studied on one hand the Haouran, and on the other the Aleppo province, gathering the richest collection of inscriptions ever brought back from these two regions. He spent eight days at Palmyra, making a note of more than a hundred unpublished texts. At the end of the year he was joined by the illustrious archæologist, the Marquis (then Count) de Vogué; they visited together the island of Cyprus, and resumed the study of the Haouran; for the first time they explored scientifically the Safa, this curious volcanic country covered up with Sabæan inscriptions, which spread in the desert to the east of Damas. After spending the summer at Jerusalem, they returned to the Aleppo province, where Waddington, who had noticed many primitive Christian monuments of the highest interest, left Mr. de Vogué to study and describe them, and he returned home in the autumn of 1862. He was taking back a rich harvest of Greek texts, which he published at the end of

Philippe Le Bas' *Voyage archéologique en Grèce et en Asie mineure*. An abstract of it was given under the title of *Inscriptions grecques et latines de la Syrie*. Moreover, during his sojourn in the East he had acquired a knowledge of the Arabic writing—knowledge sufficient to enable him to copy the inscriptions and decipher Mohammanadan coins. Of these latter coins he had a great collection, which he ceded to the Bibliothèque nationale in Paris. The large number of Arabic texts which he had assembled was placed by him most liberally at the disposal of specialists. In 1865 Waddington was elected a Member of the Academy des Inscriptions at Belles-Lettres, in the place left vacant by the death of Count Beugnot.

But it is more as a Collector and a Patron of science than as a professional Orientalist or Hellenist, however great his researches were, that Waddington has earned the gratitude of the learned world. As Minister of Instruction Publique he has created a chair of Greek Epigraphy at the College de France, obtained for the Louvre the monuments discovered by Consul de Sarzec at Tello, and secured the funds necessary to the publication of the *Corpus Inscriptionum Semiticarum*, an immense work undertaken by the members of the Academy des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres. It would be unfair, *à propos* of Waddington, not to record the great name of his companion, the Marquis de Vogué, who has published the Sabæan or Aramaic Inscriptions copied by Waddington in his own important work—*Syrie centrale*.

Paris, March 12, 1894.

HENRI CORDIER.

IV. NOTES AND NEWS.

Kālidāsa in Ceylon.—The Hon. T. B. Panābokke, a Sinhalese gentleman, at present member of the Legislative Council in Ceylon, has brought out at the Government press an edition of the very ancient Pada-gata-sannaya (or