

“population of Egypt down to a comparatively late date, and are found not only in pottery but on the rocks.”

“However, these are only suspicions, and I must leave it to younger men to find out whether they are justified or not. I am getting too old for pioneering work.”

This explains my motive in putting forth this brief paper. I lay the idea, the suspicion, the germ of a conception, before some retired Anglo-Indian official, about fifty years old, who wants a subject, which has been apparently not occupied by another. He can feel carefully, without partiality or prejudice, down the outline of the conception, read up all that has been written, and write a paper for the *Journal of this Society* in the early years of the *Twentieth Century*. I shall not be there to read it.

R. N. C.

October 25, 1898.

NOTE ON JAMES FRASER, AUTHOR OF THE “HISTORY OF NADIR SHAH” (1742).

James Fraser is the author of the first book in English on Nādir Shāh, “that very costive Sophy,” as Byron calls him, known in the East as قهر الهی, or the Scourge of God. Fraser’s work is a first-hand contribution to the history of the period, important not only by reason of its early date, but because of the number of original documents it has preserved, documents not to be found elsewhere.¹ In addition to his claim as an author, he is entitled to some brief record as an early, if not the very first, collector of manuscripts in India; and thus indirectly a prominent contributor to the valuable Oriental collections of the Bodleian Library at Oxford. On the strength of the above achievements he was, I should have thought, entitled to

¹ Lowndes (ed. 1858, p. 834) gives the “History of Nadir Shah” as published in 1732. This is an impossible date, Nādir Shāh’s invasion of India, with which the book is chiefly concerned, not having occurred until 1737-8. The date must surely be a mistake for 1742. All the copies I have seen are of the second edition and dated 1742. Apparently the first edition appeared in January of the same year (*Gent. Mag.* for 1742, p. 56).

a modest place in the "Dictionary of National Biography"; and though passed over there, it is stranger still that his name is not to be found in the "Book of Eminent Scotsmen" of Joseph Irving (1881); but this neglect may yet be rectified by Dr. Ethé in the second volume of his Bodleian Catalogue of Persian MSS., as announced (now, alas! nearly nine years ago) in the preface to his first volume.

As a small contribution to Fraser's biography, I have transcribed some manuscript notes from a copy of the "Nadir Shah" lately acquired by me. The book belonged in 1754 to Samuel Smalbroke, son of Dr. R. Smalbroke, the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry mentioned by Fraser in his preface, p. vi (at the top). The notes referred to are without doubt by S. Smalbroke himself.

[On the flyleaf.] "January 21st, 1754, Novo Stylo—Died Mr. James Fraser at his own house at Rylick near Inverness in Scotland: he went out Writer to ye Factory at Suratt, then after Returning to England and publishing this Book, carried his new-married Wife . . . with him to ye Indies, whither he went as Supercargo. Return'd ye 2^d time (after 6 years stay) into England, December 1749, where I saw them in London in ye Beginning of 1750. He then intended to send his MSS. & goods by Sea to Scotland. He complain'd of his want of Latin, and intended to compleat an Antient-Persick Lexicon out of several imperfect ones y^t he possess'd and to Translate the Zund of Zerdusht from y^e original, as he had promis'd to Bp. Smalbroke & like wise to Translate the Væd of the Brahmans.

"Mr. Fraser show'd me the Væd (or Bæd = Beth in Bernier) in ye original characters (a little and beautifully written and adorn'd MS. in broad-twelves) & some chapters of allegorical writings (ethical) of some of the Brahmans w^{ch} he had Translated into English & redd to me. They contain'd a Fiction of Gyants or Peris fighting in Battle & a conversation of some of them taken up into their war-chariot concerning the soul, an emblem perhaps first borrow'd from Plato's Wings & Chariot of y^e soul, for y^e

Greeks Books were carried into Indostan by y^e Traders of Persia & Egypt after y^e Macedonian conquests, if not before."

[On title-page.] "Merchant" added to author's name.

[Preface, p. vi, line 2.] "Dr. R. Smalbroke, at whose request Mr. Fraser studied the Old Persick (in order to Publish Zerdusht Book) [and] afterwards brought many Fine MSS. at his return in 1749 (Dec. vii), seen by me S. Smalbroke in his custody. Since Mr. Fraser's death in Scotland bought (at my intimation to Oxford) for y^e University."

[id., line 17.] "I studied [Arabic] under"

[id., line 21.] "Three hours each day [in Sanskerrit = 'pure tongue': see Bernier]."

[p. 17, note †.] As to Geronimo Xavier's knowledge of the Persian language: "But he seems never to have learn'd it well, for he wrote his Spurious Gospel (published by De Dieu) in Portuguese & got it turned into Persick by Molana Ben Kassem at Lahor, or at least corrected." See, for this Xavier and his doings, E. D. Maclagan, "Jesuit Missions," *Journal Asiatic Soc. Bengal*, vol. lxvi (1896), p. 110.

[p. 69, third line from foot.] After the words "treacherous correspondence," "if at all true." This remark does great credit to Mr. S. Smalbroke's acumen, for the sending of any letter by Nizām-ul-Mulk to Nādir Shāh is very doubtful indeed.

[p. 131, note, on custom of having two governors, one to command a city and the other its castle] "in imitation of Cyrus's method in Persia."

[p. 227, after "Nādir Shah," in line 2 of the heading] "by some Missionaire."

[p. 231, as to Nadir's answer to his mother] "exactly the answer of Oliver Cromwell to L^d Broghill."

CATALOGUE OF ORIENTAL MANUSCRIPTS.

[p. 19, under "Ayar Danish."] "It seems at least (to me) to have been originally y^e invention of Perzuia, or Buzurj rather, in Persick about A.D. 550 (tho he fathered [it] on y^e Brahmins), and immediately translated into Greek."

[On margin.] "A copy (finely wrote) of this in y^e original tongue Mr. Fraser brought home in 1749, wh^h I saw."

[p. 20, at end of the para.] "There are two Greek Versions of it, one a verbal one, and seems very old, printed by [blank] at Hamburgh under y^e title of 'Sapienta Indorum.' Y^e other is a Loose Paraphrase printed with Portallas's Latin version in 'Histor: Byzant:.' There is a French translation of these Fables & an English one from it lately, 12^o. The English is called 'Pilpay's Fables' for Bidpai, y^e supposed Narrator of them to an Indian Prince."

[p. 29, Farhang Jahanguiri.] "Mr Fraser brought a 2nd copy of the Appendix, 1749 (tho imperfect too); both are now in y^e Bodley Lib."

[p. 40, added at end.] "See many more MSS. particularly of the Zand in Old-Persick & several Lexicons (tho' all imperfect) of y^t tongue, but wh. he intended to compleat & publish & the whole Væd of y^e Indians in the Bramins character wh. Mr Fraser showed to me S. S. in 1749 in London, wh. now I hear are safely deposited in y^e Bodley Library, having been bought of his Widow by Dr Radclif's executors & given to the University of Oxford at y^e instigation of Dr Owen, who heard of them from Mr James Bruncker, to whom I related as above.

"(Signed) SAM^l SMALBROKE."

The place of James Fraser's death, "Rylick near Inverness," seemed to point to a connection with the family owning the estate so named (also spelt Reelick, Relick, Relig). It lies in the parish of Kirkhill, a few miles southwest of the town of Inverness, and had in 1845, after great

drainage improvements, a rental of £640 a year ("New Statistical Account of Scotland," vol. xiv, p. 460). The family, according to John Anderson ("Historical Account of the family of Frisel or Fraser," 1825, pp. 71-6, 195), was founded early in the sixteenth century by Hutcheon Bain, an illegitimate son of Thomas, fourth Lord Lovat (d. 21st October, 1524). On referring to Burke's "Landed Gentry," ed. 1894, vol. i, p. 709, I find that James Fraser (1713-1755) was descended in the seventh generation from this progenitor; he was the second but eldest surviving son of Alexander Fraser (d. 1733). James married in London, Mary, only daughter of Edward Satchell, of Warwickshire; she died 18th June, 1795. Their only son, Edward Satchell Fraser (1751-1835), was the father of John Baillie Fraser (1783-1856), the author of several books of travel in India and Persia (see "Dictionary of National Biography," and "Encyclopaedia Britannica," 9th edition). Another son was William Fraser, Commissioner of Dehli, who was shot there in 1835 (W. H. Sleeman, "Rambles and Recollections," 1844, vol. ii, pp. 215-231; R. Bosworth Smith, "Life of Lord Lawrence," 1883, vol. i, pp. 75-78). Other grandsons of James Fraser were connected with the East, viz., Edward S., who died at St. Helena, 25th April, 1813; Alexander Charles, who died in India, 4th June, 1816, aged 27; and George John, 1st Bengal Cavalry, who died at Aurangabad, 27th August, 1842, aged 42. Burke's date, 1755, for James Fraser's death, must, if we follow S. Smalbroke's notes, be altered to 1754.

The Court Books of the East India Company from 1728 to 1750, which I have been permitted to consult at the India Office, furnish no confirmation of Mr. Smalbroke's statement that James Fraser went out the first time to India as a Writer. Very probably that was the case, though I have not traced the appointment. But I find that, on his second visit to that country, he went as the Company's servant, having been appointed on the 12th November, 1742, a Factor on the Bombay establishment to reside at Surat. His bondsmen in £1,000 each were Hugh Ross and George

Fryer, of London, merchants. On the same date he was posted as an agent to Mocha in the Red Sea, with $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. commission, other $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. being apportioned between his two colleagues, Captain Freeman and Mr. Parker. On the 29th December, 1742, Fraser's wife and a little girl, a relative of his, were allowed to proceed to Bombay on one of the Company's ships. On the 14th September, 1748, a letter was received from James Fraser at Surat, dated the 10th, 22nd, and 24th November, 1747; and he must have left India soon afterwards, for on the 12th January, 1749, he presented a Memorial for an inquiry into some official dispute or quarrel. He is there described as "late of Council at Surat." I have not pursued my inquiries further, the above being sufficient to confirm the assertion that he was in the Honourable Company's service.

Anquetil Duperron ("Zendavesta," vol. I, Discours préliminaire, cccclviii, ccclix) heard of Fraser at Surat from the Pārsī, Dastūr Shāpur, and it was to inspect Fraser's Zand MSS. in the Bodleian that in 1762 he (A. D.) visited Oxford, when brought a prisoner of war to England. James Darmsteter ("Annales du Musée Guimet, Zandavesta," I, Introduction, xi) does not seem to have known much about Fraser, nor is what he does say very accurate. "Quelques années plus tard" [i.e. after 1720, when Bouchier sent home to Oxford a Zand manuscript] "l'Écossais Frazer, conseiller à Bombay, se rendit à Surat pour étudier auprès des Parsis; ils lui vendaient deux manuscrits et lui refusèrent leurs leçons." Here we may note (1) that Fraser was of the *Surat*, not of the *Bombay* Council; (2) that he had already lived at Surat ten years, 1730–1740; (3) that he procured many more than two Zand manuscripts; (4) that, as p. vi of his Preface to "Nadir Shah" shows, he had no difficulty in obtaining Pārsī teachers; (5) that, as Mr. Smalbroke's annotations prove, Fraser had a working knowledge of the Zand tongue. Fraser's death at the

comparatively early age of forty-one years goes a long way to account for his doing nothing further with the materials that he had so assiduously accumulated.

WM. IRVINE.

IV. ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

Presented by the India Office.

The Fauna of British India. 13 vols.

8vo. London, 1889-97.

Pearse (Major Hugh). Memoirs of Alexander Gardner.

8vo. London, 1898.

Presented by the Senate of the Calcutta University.

Mitra Sārādā Charan. Land-Law of Bengal. (Tajore Law Lectures, 1895.)

8vo. Calcutta, 1898.

Presented by the Madras Government Museum.

Thurston (E.). Eurasians of Madras and Malabar; Note on Tattooing; Malagasy-Niao-Dravidians; Toda Petition. With ten plates. (Madras Government Museum Bulletin, vol. ii, No. 2: Anthropology.)

8vo. Madras, 1898.

Presented by the Syndics of the Cambridge University Press.

Nicholson (R. A.). Selected Poems from the Dīvānī Shamsi Tabriz. Edited and translated.

8vo. Cambridge, 1898.

Cook (S. A.). Glossary of the Aramaic Inscriptions.

8vo. Cambridge, 1898.

Presented by the Leiden University.

Amr ibn Bahr al-Jahiz al-Basri (Abu Othman). Le livre des Beautés et des antithèses: texte arabe, par G. van Vloten.

8vo. Leide, 1898.

Presented by the Musée Guimet.

Menant (D.). Les Parsis.

8vo. Paris, 1898.

Aymonier (E.). Voyage en Laos. Tome ii.

8vo. Paris, 1897.