THE RAJA OF SARAWAK.

AN ACCOUNT OF SIR JAMES BROOKE, K.C.B., LL.D.,
GIVEN CHIEFLY THROUGH LETTERS
AND JOURNALS.

BY GERTRUDE L. JACOB.

IN TWO VOLUMES.
VOL. I.

WITH PORTRAIT AND MAPS.

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PREFACE

BY

M.-GENERAL SIR GEORGE LE GRAND JACOB,
K.C.S.I., C.B.

Towards the close of 1853, driven from India to rest from labour and recover from fever, I found myself at Singapore, a central position for travel over the Eastern world. Party spirit on the subject of Sir James Brooke was here raging. The editor of a local paper styled him a pirate, a wholesale murderer, an assassin, etc., and had succeeded in raising personal ill-feeling by publishing extracts from private letters that had by some means fallen into his hands.

Having letters of credit on the house of A. L. Johnstone and Co., I became acquainted with their senior partner, W. H. Read, Esq., * who, seeing I was bent on travel, challenged me to accompany him to Borneo, there to introduce me to his friend Sir James Brooke; a proposal that I declined on finding it entailed the necessity of becoming the Raja's guest;

* Now a member of the Legislative Council of the Straits Settlements, and Consul-General at Singapore for the Government of the Netherlands.
and not wishing to be on such friendly terms with a man charged with crime.

Mr. Read assured me that these charges were without foundation, got up by persons bent on injuring Sir James Brooke, and that I had only to study the subject to be convinced of this. My curiosity was excited, and, as the dry food of Blue-books and official papers had long been my pabulum, I availed myself of all the assistance procurable, endeavouring to ascertain what real fire there might be under so much smoke. I could, however, find none—nothing, that is, affecting character, and I was led to believe that there must be hidden springs moving hostile hands.

Having so far satisfied myself, I accepted an invitation from the Raja, received through Mr. Read, and we crossed the China Sea together. On reaching Kuching, the capital of Sarawak, and being introduced to Sir James, I began the conversation by saying that, having studied his history as far as my means permitted, I believed him to have been maligned, but feeling doubt on some points, I should like, if he had no objection, to ask several questions of which, while reading the papers on his case, I had made note.

Sir James replied that I could not grapple too closely with him—that few things would please him more than to be searchingly questioned. On this I drew the paper from my pocket, and went seriatus through the list. His answers on every point were conclusively satisfactory; so that I had then no scruple in enjoying his hospitality, and cultivating his acquaintance.
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We accompanied him to his mountain retreat—such a hill to climb! I, who am an old ibex hunter, weakened I admit by illness, found it a hard matter to reach the summit—perpendicular and slippery rocks, tree trunks for ladders, small notches at long intervals for rungs—all around a tangled mass, the wild confusion of nature in a tropical and rainy climate. After reaching the Raja's cottage it was interesting to see the Dyaks hurrying in to pay homage with genuine devotion, bringing fruit and other offerings. Piles of dorians scented the air.

During my stay in Borneo I observed that the Raja was regarded by these people as almost a superhuman being sent for their deliverance from the oppression of their fellow-men, while the Malays looked up to him as to a great chief fit to rule and guide them.

The secret of his power will be found in this book. The acquaintance I then made with him ripened into friendship, and I am glad that my niece has recorded the history of his life. It furnishes a lesson in the government of Eastern peoples, which those who have to deal with them would do well to study; it shows with what facility a false cry may be raised, and, in the name of humanity, how humanity may suffer.

G. L. Jacob.

12, Queensborough Terrace, London, W.,
July, 1876.
A NARRATIVE entitled "The English Raja," drawn up by me for the Monthly Packet magazine of 1873-4, attracted the attention of some of the oldest friends of Sir James Brooke, from one of whom especially—the late Mr. John C. Templer—I received the warmest acknowledgment of my labour. Failing health, following on a life fully occupied as a barrister and Master of the Court of Exchequer, had, he said, put it out of his power to fulfil a long-cherished intention of compiling the Raja's biography. He was then (February, 1874) seriously ill, and a few months later passed away; not, however, until he had seen the whole of my work, and revised the MS. of the closing chapters with his own hand. That it would be republished was his dying hope; and his widow selected from among his papers and forwarded to me whatever could throw additional light on Sir James Brooke's character and history.

The Raja Charles Brooke, nephew and successor in Sarawak to Sir James, expressed at the same time his earnest desire that I would enlarge and republish the story; and the
idea received the encouragement of Sir Thomas Fairbairn, Bart., one of the trustees of the will of Sir James Brooke, and of Mr. Spenser St. John, to whose care as executor the Raja bequeathed his papers, and who has stated his intention of writing the life of his old chief.

It soon, however, became evident that no mere expansion of my narrative would do justice to the new material offered, and that the whole ought to be re-cast. A task so responsible was not lightly to be undertaken, and the hesitation that I felt only gradually gave way before the judgment of others, joined to my own growing conviction that it would be right at least to make the attempt.

In thus doing I have received the greatest and most constant help from the advice and criticism of my uncle, M.-General Le Grand Jacob, of Mr. W. H. Read, and of Mr. C. Kegan Paul, while to Sir Thomas Fairbairn the closing chapters of my work owe much of their fulness. I gratefully acknowledge the cordial assistance and encouragement given me by these and by others; but it is only due to them to say that the responsibility of the use made of the materials intrusted to me rests on myself.

To Mr. Arthur C. Crookshank, for thirty years connected with the administration of Sarawak, I owe much valuable information and assistance.

To the Rev. Augustus Jessopp, D.D., Head Master of King Edward VI.’s School at Norwich, where Raja Brooke is proudly remembered, I am indebted for whatever help it lay in his power to give.
I desire also to thank Admiral the Hon. Sir Henry Keppel, the Rev. A. Horsburgh, the Rev. George Cox, Captain J. T. Newall, Mr. R. N. Bacon, Mr. C. Penty (for some years in the Raja's service in Sarawak), and my kind and forbearing publisher, Mr. Macmillan, together with many others, men and women, from whom I have received unfailing sympathy, and, wherever possible, active help.

I am greatly obliged to Mr. Bolton for the care with which he has fashioned into a Map of Sarawak the rough materials placed in his hands, and to Mr. Arthur C. Crookshank and Mr. Alfred Everett, Resident of Bintulu, for revising his work.

The chief authorities for the Life are—

I. The Letters and Journals of Sir James Brooke. Of the Letters, those addressed to Mr. Templer, and a few others dating from 1838 to 1853, were for the most part published in 1854. The Journals, written from 1839 to 1846, were published in part by Admiral Keppel in 1847, and in part by Admiral Sir G. Rodney Mundy in 1848.

II. The Blue-book (Borneo) containing the "Reports of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into matters connected with the position of Sir J. Brooke" (1855); with other papers, and Hansard's Reports of Debates in Parliament. An account of the Inquiry, compiled chiefly from the Free Press of Singapore, and published there at the time, has also been consulted for chapter xxiii.

I have aimed at making the book as far as possible the
AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

Raja's autobiography. I have not attempted a general summary of his character or an estimate of the importance of his work. My readers will doubtless take this task upon themselves.

Gertrude L. Jacob.

June 17, 1876.
THE RAJA OF SARÁWAK.

CHAPTER I.

1803—1830.

James Brooke was the second son and fifth child of Mr. Thomas Brooke, of the H.E.I. Company's Bengal Civil Service, and of Anna Maria, his wife. He was born on April 29, 1803, at Secrole, the European suburb of Benares, now known as Secrore.

The other children of Mr. and Mrs. Brooke were—Henry, who entered the Company's army, and died unmarried in early manhood; and four daughters, Harriet, Emma, Anna, and Margaret, of whom Emma married the Rev. F. C. Johnson, Vicar of White Lackington, Somersetshire; and Margaret married the Rev. Anthony Savage. All are now dead.

Mr. Thomas Brooke was seventh in descent from a Sir Thomas Vyner, who, as Lord Mayor of London in 1654, entertained Oliver Cromwell in the Guildhall; his only son, Sir Robert Vyner, pursued an opposite course—sacrificed some wealth for the Royal cause, and, being also in turn Lord Mayor, entertained King Charles II. in 1670.

On the death without issue of Sir Robert's only son George, the baronetcy became extinct, and the family estate of Eastbury, in Essex, reverted to the two daughters of Sir Thomas Vyner, from one of whom, named Edith, the Brooke line of descent is derived.