

*Further Notes respecting the late CSOMA DE KÖRÖS. By Lieut. Colonel LLOYD, and A. CAMPBELL, Esq. Superintendent at Darjeeling.*

[The following letters have been kept back from publication owing to circumstances, which need not special detail. I should observe with reference to Lieut. Colonel Lloyd's remark as to the absence of any notice of the deceased scholar's literary labours in the Journal, that No. 124, contains a notice of his personal and literary habits, embodied in a Report as to his death, from Mr. Campbell, with remarks appended by myself. I mention this for the facility of reference.]



With reference to the resolution of the Asiatic Society to place Rs. 1000 at my disposal, for the erection of a monument over the grave of the late Mr. Csoma de Körös, I have the honor to state, that in consideration of the necessary delay and difficulty in procuring a suitable marble monument from Calcutta, I have had a plain pillar of substantial masonry erected to mark the spot, and I purpose placing a simple tablet of stone in the pillar, with the date of his death, his name, and age only, inscribed thereon. This, however, is not wholly the manner in which I wish to see the Society's intentions fulfilled; I am anxious that a marble monument, with a suitable inscription to commemorate the deceased, shall be placed in the Church at Darjeeling, and to enable me to do so for the Society, if the proposal is approved, I request to be furnished with the inscription which the Society may consider the most appropriate.

Since the death of de Körös, I have not ceased to hope, that some member of the Society would furnish a connected account of his career in the East. It is now more than a year and a half since we lost him, yet we are without any such record in the Journal of the Society to shew, that his labours were valuable to the literary association he so earnestly studied to assist in its most important objects, as well as to shew that his labours have been duly appreciated. I know that I am not qualified by knowledge of the language and literature of Thibet, to do justice to the subject, and I have not on that account attempted it; but in the belief that the Society will be better pleased to have an incomplete notice of his labours, than be altogether without one, I have compiled a note of his published contributions to the Asiatic Society on the language and literature of Thibet, which is hereunto annexed. I have also the pleasure to forward a copy of a Biographical sketch of the

deceased by himself, which appeared in the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society many years ago, and which was corrected by the subject of it before his death. The number of the Journal containing the sketch, with the author's manuscript corrections, is now in my possession, and was, with the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, made over to me, according to the intentions of the deceased, as expressed previous to his illness.

Further, I have the pleasure to forward copy of a summary report of the contents of the Thibetan works in the possession of the deceased in A. D. 1825, which I cannot find has been published. It was forwarded to me by Lieutenant Robinson of Sirsa, in the belief, that as the work of de Körös it would be acceptable to me. If it has not hitherto been published, it will be an interesting addition to the contributions of the author.\* At the time it was written, the European world was almost altogether ignorant of the subject on which it treats; and the author himself had then but a faint glimmering of the light he afterwards shed on it. To admire the zeal, and laborious perseverance, by which he advanced in the ability to interpret the works he then so briefly reported on, and to compare the later elucidations of Thibetan works by the same pen with this his first essay in that line, will be a gratifying task to the admirers of his attainments, and an useful incentive to those who, in the commencement of a laborious study, may doubt their powers of advancing in it to renown and eminence.

From the date of the Biographical sketch (1825) until his death on the 11th of April, 1842, the particulars of the life of Csoma de Körös, are not fully known to me. I believe that he visited Western Thibet from Soobathoo in A. D. 1826, and that he continued to study at the monasteries in that country, living in the poorest possible manner until A. D. 1831, in October, of which year, I met him at Captain Kennedy's house, at Simla. He was then dressed exactly as when I saw him on his arrival at Darjeeling, in March 1842, in a coarse blue cloth loose gown extending to his heels, and a small cloth cap of the same materials, he wore a grizzly beard, shunned the society of Europeans, and passed his whole time in study.

In May 1832, he went to Calcutta, where he lived in the Asiatic Society's Rooms, and had charge of the library until the beginning of

\* Forwarded to the Asiatic Society, in December, 1843.

1836, when his anxiety to visit Lassa, induced him to leave Calcutta for Titalya, in the hope of accomplishing his design, through Bootan, Sikim, or Nipal. Colonel Lloyd, at that time on the Sikim Frontier, has furnished me with the following particulars of the deceased, while at Titalya, and its neighbourhood.

Csoma de Körös, or more correctly, Alexander Csoma (as well as I recollect, without reference to papers which are sent away) came up to me in the beginning of 1836, say January, but it can be easily ascertained, when he quitted the apartments he had in the Asiatic Society's house. He wished to study Bengalee, and I sent him to Julpiegorie, where he remained about three months, and being dissatisfied there, returned to Titalya, I think in March; he would not remain in my house, as he thought his eating and living with me would cause him to be deprived of the familiarity and society of the natives, with whom it was his wish to be colloquially intimate, and, I therefore got him a common native hut, and made as comfortable as I could for him, but still he seemed to me to be miserably off; I also got him a servant, to whom he paid three or four rupees a month, and his living did not cost him more than four more. He did not quit Titalya, I think, till the end of 1837, November, and all the time he was there was absorbed in the study of Sanscrit, Maharratta, and the Bengally languages. I think it was in November that he left, purposing to go to Calcutta first, but ultimately he seemed to intend getting into the Ducan; at one time he was intending to travel through the mountains to Cathmandoo, and I am not certain whether he did not apply to Mr. Hodgson for a pass, but he seemed to have a great dread of trusting himself into Thibet, for, I repeatedly urged him to try to reach H'Lassa through Sikim, and he always said such an attempt could only be made at the risk of his life. I am therefore surprised at his after all coming here apparently with that intention, yet he seemed anxious to go to two monasteries in particular, where he said there were large libraries, and one where one or both the large works, the Kagzur and Sangzur, are, he said, printed. I suppose you to be writing something regarding him, therefore I send you the foregoing, which is all I can recollect just now, though could I refer to my papers, I might have been able to say more.

Yours truly,

12th December, 1843.

(Signed) G. W. A. LLOYD.

I recollect, that Mr. Hodgson had some correspondence with Csoma de Körös during the stay of the latter at Titalya, the subject of which was the possibility of his getting into Thibet, through Nipal; so far as my memory serves me, Mr. Hodgson invited him to come to Cathmandu, but did not give him any hope of being able to penetrate into Thibet, from that city. At that time the deceased was employed in the study of Sanscrit, which he continued with unabated perseverance until his death. When here he told me, that he had lost much valuable time from not having studied the Sanscrit previous to the Thibetan language, the former he said was the key to the whole literature of Thibet. It was on his then knowledge of Sanscrit, that he based enthusiastic hopes of realising the objects of his research. Could he reach Lassa, he felt that the Sanscrit would have quickly enabled him to master the contents of its libraries, and in them he believed was to be found all that was wanting to give him the real history of the Huns, in their original condition and migrations, and to him this was the completion of knowledge, as it was the star that led him on his untiring way of thought and study for 24 years.

In 1838, M. Csoma de Körös was asked by Captain Pemberton to accompany him on his mission to Bootan, but as this did not give him any prospect of reaching Thibet, he declined the invitation, and remained in Calcutta until the beginning of 1842, when he left it for Darjeeling. The power of acquiring languages was the extraordinary talent of M. Csoma de Körös. He had studied the following ancient and modern tongues, and was a proficient in many of them,—Hebrew, Arabic, Sanscrit, Pushtoo, Greek, Latin, Slavonic, German, English, Turkish, Persian, French, Russian, Thibetan, with the addition of Hindoostani, Mahratta, and Bengali. His library at his death had a dictionary of each of the languages he was acquainted with, and on all were his manuscript annotations.

I have, &c.

*Darjeeling, December 12th, 1843.*

(Signed) A. CAMPBELL.

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*Catalogue of contributions to the Asiatic Society of Bengal on the language, literature, &c., of Thibet, by the late MR. ALEXANDER CSOMA DE KÖRÖS.*

1. Geographical notice of Thibet, published in vol. 1, of the *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, No. 4, 1832, Page 122.