was elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society in 1845, and served on the Council in the years 1856–57. Two papers by him, one "A Survey on the Southern Part of the Middle Island of New Zealand," the other "On Steam Communication with the Southern Colonies" (Australia and the Cape of Good Hope), were read by him to the Society and published in the 'Journal,' vols. xxi. and xxvi.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL SECTION OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

ABERDEEN MEETING, 1885.

The meeting of the British Association was held this year at Aberdeen, commencing on the 9th September. The Geographical Section was organised as follows:—

PRESIDENT.—General J. T. Walker, C.B., R.E., LL.D., F.R.S.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.—Professor James Donaldson, M.A., LL.D., F.R.S.E.; John Rae, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S.; Admiral Sir E. Ommanney, C.B., F.R.S.; Lieut.-Col. R. L. Playfair.

SECRETARIES.—J. S. Keltie; J. S. O'Halloran; E. G. Ravenstein (*Recorder*); Rev. G. A. Smith, M.A.

COMMITTEE.—A. Buchan, M.A., F.R.S.E.; Dr. W. G. Blackie; Hugh Cleghorn, M.D.; Robert Capper; Sir George Campbell; Sir James Douglas; Admiral Farquhar; Francis Galton, M.A., F.R.S.; James Matthews, Lord Provost of Aberdeen; Admiral Bedford Pim; Trelawny Saunders; David Stewart; Rev. Canon H. B. Tristram, F.R.S.; Coutts Trotter; H. A. Webster; William Westgarth; Captain W. J. T. Wharton, R.N.; A. Silva White; Cope Whitehouse, M.A.

The leading features of this year's meeting was the prominence given to Indian subjects. The President's address naturally dealt with the grand trigonometrical and other surveys carried on in India, and out of a total of 34 papers and reports read, as many as 11 referred to the geography of India and the regions immediately adjoining it. Mr. Keltie's report on Geographical Education attracted a very large audience, and led to a prolonged discussion. Nor has this year's meeting been barren of results in other respects. The Committee for furthering the exploration of New Guinea was re-appointed, and 150*l.* were granted towards the expenses of Mr. Forbes' expedition. The following resolutions were likewise accepted by the Committee of recommendation:—

1. That General Walker, Sir H. Lefroy, Sir William Thomson, Mr. Alex. Buchan, Mr. J. Y. Buchanan, Mr. John Murray, Dr. Rae, and Captain Dawson, with power to add to their number, be a committee, for the purpose of organising a systematic investigation of the depth of the permanently frozen soil in the Polar regions, its geographical limits and relation to the present Pole of greatest cold, that Mr. H. W. Bates be secretary, and that the sum of 5*l.* be placed at the disposal of the Committee.

2. That General Walker, Sir H. Lefroy, Sir William Thomson, Mr. Alex. Buchan, Mr. J. Y. Buchanan, Mr. John Murray, Mr. Francis Galton, and Mr. H. W. Bates,

with power to add to their number, be a committee for the purpose of taking into consideration the combination of the Ordnance and Admiralty Surveys, and the production of a batho-hypsographical map of the British Islands, and that Mr. E. G. Ravenstein be secretary.

3. That General Walker, Sir William Thomson, Sir H. Lefroy, General Strachey, Prof. A. S. Herschel, Prof. Chrystall, Prof. C. Niven, and Prof. A. Schuster, be a committee for the purpose of inviting designs for a good differential-gravity meter in supersession of the pendulum, whereby satisfactory results may be obtained, at each station of observations in a few hours, instead of the many days over which it is necessary to extend pendulum observations, and that Prof. J. H. Poynting be secretary.

4. That Sir John Hooker, Sir George Nares, and Admiral Sir Leopold M'Clintock, be a committee for the purpose of drawing attention to the desirability of further research in the Antarctic regions, nearly half a century having elapsed since the last exploration, and that Admiral Sir E. Ommanney be secretary.

One other feature in connection with this year's meeting deserves notice, namely, the Loan exhibition of Scotch maps and geographical publications, which had been arranged by Mr. Webster and Mr. Silva White, of the Scottish Geographical Society. This is an innovation deserving of imitation at other meetings of a similar character.

The PRESIDENT'S opening address was delivered on Friday, the second day of the Sectional Meeting. After some introductory remarks on the scope of the science of geography, he proceeded as follows:—

Scientific geography embraces a wide range of subjects, wider than can be claimed for any other department of science. Thus, the President of this Section has a vast field from which to gather subjects for his opening address. I shall, however, restrict my address to the subject with which I am most familiar, and give you some account of the Survey of India, and more particularly of the labours of the trigonometrical or geodetic branch of that survey, in which the best years of my life have been passed.

I must begin by pointing out that the survey operations in India have been very varied in nature, and constitute a blending together of many diverse ingredients. Their origin was purely European, nothing in the shape of a general survey having been executed under the previous Asiatic Governments; lands had been measured in certain localities, but merely with a view to acquiring some idea of the relative areas of properties, in assessing on individuals the share of the revenue levied on a community; but other factors than area—such as richness or poverty of soil, and proximity or absence of water—influenced the assessment, and often in a greater degree, so that very exact measurements of area were not wanted for revenue purposes, and no other reason then suggested itself why lands should be accurately measured. The value of accurate maps of individual properties, with every boundary clearly and exactly laid down, was not thought of in India in those days, and indeed has only of late years began to be recognised by even the British Government. The idea of a general geographical survey never suggested itself to the Asiatic mind. Thus when Englishmen came to settle in India, one of their first acts was to make surveys of the tracts of country over which their influence was extending; and as that influence increased, so the survey became developed from a rude and rapid primary delineation of the broad facts of general geography, to an elaborately executed and artistic delineation of the topography of the country, and in some provinces to the mapping of every field and individual property. Thus there have been three orders or classes of survey, and these may be respectively designated geographical, topographical, and cadastral; all three have frequently been carried on *pari passu*, but in different regions, demanding more or less elaborate survey according as they happened to be more or less under British influence. There is also the Great Trigonometrical or Geodetic Survey, by which the graphical surveys are controlled, collated, and co-ordinated, as I will presently explain.

Survey operations in India began along the coast-lines before the commencement of the seventeenth century, the sailors preceding the land surveyors by upwards of a century. The Directors of the East India Company, recognising the importance of correct geographical information for their mercantile enterprises, appointed Richard Hakluyt, Archdeacon of Westminster, their historiographer and custodian of the journals of East Indian Voyages, in the year 1601, within a few weeks of the establishment of the company by Royal Charter. Hakluyt gave lectures to the students at Oxford, and is said by Fuller to have been the first to exhibit the old and imperfect maps and the new and revised maps for comparison in the common schools, "to the singular pleasure and great contentment of his auditory." The first general map of India was published in 1752 by the celebrated French geographer D'Anville, and was a meritorious compilation from the existing charts of coast-lines and itineraries of travellers. But the Father of Indian Geography, as he has been called, was Major Rennell, who landed in India as a midshipman of the Royal Navy in 1760, distinguished himself in the blockade of Pondicherry, was employed for a time in making surveys of the coast between the Paumben Passage and Calcutta, was appointed Surveyor of the East India Company's dominions in Bengal in 1764, was one of the first officers to receive a commission in the Bengal Engineers on its formation, and in 1767 was raised to the position of Surveyor-General. Bengal was not in those days the tranquil country we have known it for so many years, but was infested by numerous bands of brigands who professed to be religious devotees, and with whom Rennell came into collision in the course of one of his surveying expeditions, and was desperately wounded; he had to be taken 300 miles in an open boat for medical assistance, the natives meanwhile applying onions to his wounds as a cataplasm. His labours in the survey of Bengal lasted over a period of nineteen years, and embraced an area of about 300,000 square miles, extending from the eastern boundaries of Lower Bengal to Agra, and from the Himalayas to the borders of Bandelkand and Chota Nagpur. Ill-health then compelled him to retire from the service on a small pension, and return to England; but not caring, as he said, to eat the bread of idleness, he immediately set himself to the utilisation of the large mass of geographical materials laid up and perishing in what was then called the India House; he published numerous charts and maps, and eventually brought out his great work on Indian Geography, the 'Memoir of a Map of Hindostan,' which went through several editions; this was followed by his Geographical System of Herodotus, and various other works of interest and importance. His labours in England extended over a period of thirty-five years, and their great merits have been universally acknowledged.

Rennell's system of field-work in Bengal was a survey of routes checked and combined by astronomical determinations of the latitude and the longitude, and a similar system was adopted in all other parts of India until the commencement of the present century. But in course of time the astronomical basis was found to be inadequate to the requirements of a general survey of all India, as the errors in the astronomical observations were liable materially to exceed those of the survey, if executed with fairly good instruments and moderate care. Now this was no new discovery, for already early in the eighteenth century the French Jesuits who were making a survey of China—with the hope of securing the protection of the Emperor, which they considered necessary to favour the progress of Christianity—had deliberately abandoned the astronomical method and employed triangulation instead. Writing in the name of the missionaries who were associated with him in the survey, Père Regis enters fully into the relative advantages of the two methods, and gives the trigonometrical the preference, as best suited to enable the work to be executed in a manner worthy the trust reposed in them by a wise prince, who judged it of the greatest importance to his State. "Thus," he says, "we flatter ourselves we have followed the surest course, and even the only one practicable, in prosecuting the greatest geographical work that was ever performed according to the rules of art."

What was true in those days is true still; points whose relative positions have been fixed by any triangulation of moderate accuracy present a more satisfactory and reliable basis for topographical survey than points fixed astronomically. Though the lunar theory has been greatly developed since those days by the labours of eminent mathematicians, and the accuracy of the lunar tables and star catalogues is much increased, absolute longitudes are still not susceptible of ready determination with great exactitude; moreover, all astronomical observations, whether of latitude or longitude, are liable to other than intrinsic errors, which arise from deflection of the plumb-line under the influence of local attractions, and which of themselves materially exceed the errors that would be generated in any fairly executed triangulation of a not excessive length, say not exceeding 500 miles.

Thus at the close of the last century Major Lambton, of the 33rd Regiment, drew up a project for a general triangulation of Southern India. It was strongly supported by his commanding officer—Colonel Wellesley, afterwards the Duke of Wellington—and was readily sanctioned by the Madras Government; for a large accession of territory in the centre of the peninsula had been recently acquired, as the result of the Mysore campaign, by which free communication had been opened between the east and west coasts, of Coromandel and Malabar; and the proposed triangulation would not merely furnish a basis for new surveys, but connect together various isolated surveys which had already been completed or were then in progress. The Great Trigonometrical Survey of India owes its origin as such, and its simultaneous inception as a geodetic survey, to Major Lambton, who pointed out that the trigonometrical stations must needs have their latitudes and longitudes determined for future reference just as the discarded astronomical stations, not however by direct observation, but by processes of calculation requiring a knowledge of the earth's figure and dimensions. But at that time the elements of the earth's figure were not known with much exactitude, for all the best geodetic arcs had been measured in high latitudes, the single short and somewhat questionable arc of Peru being the only one situated in the vicinity of the equator. Thus additional arcs in low latitudes, as those of India, were greatly needed and might be furnished by Lambton. He took care to set this forth very distinctly in the programme which he drew up for the consideration of the Madras Government, remarking that there was thus something still left as a desideratum for the science of geodesy, which his operations might supply, and that he would rejoice indeed should it come within his province "to make observations tending to elucidate so sublime a subject."

Lambton commenced operations by measuring a base-line and a small meridional arc near Madras, and then, casting a set of triangles over the southern peninsula, he converted the triangles on the central meridian into a portion of what is now known as the Great Arc of India, measuring its angles with extreme care, and checking the triangulation by base-lines measured at distances of two to three degrees apart in latitude. His principal instruments were a steel measuring chain, a great theodolite, and a zenith sector, each of which had a history of its own before coming into his hands. The chain and zenith sector were sent from England with Lord Macartney's Embassy to the Emperor of China, as gifts for presentation to that potentate, who unfortunately did not appreciate their value and declined to accept them; they were then made over to Dr. Dinwiddie, the astronomer to the embassy, who took them to India for sale. The theodolite was constructed in England for Lambton, on the model of one in use on the Ordnance Survey; on its passage to India it was captured by the French frigate, the *Piémontaise*, and landed at Mauritius, but eventually it was forwarded to its destination by the chivalrous French Governor, De Caen, with a complimentary letter to the Governor of Madras.

Lambton was assisted for a short time by Captain Kater, whose name is now best known in connection with pendulum experiments and the employment of the seconds' pendulum as a standard of length; but for many years afterwards he had no officer to assist him. At first he met with much opposition from advocates of the discarded astronomical method, who insisted on its being sufficiently accurate and more economical than the trigonometrical. But he was warmly supported by Maskelyne, the Astronomer-Royal in England; and he soon had an opportunity of demonstrating the astronomical method to be fallacious, for its determination of the breadth of the peninsula in the latitude of Madras was proved by the triangulation to be forty miles in error. Still, for several years he never received a word of sympathy, encouragement, or advice either from the Government or from the Royal Society. A foreign nation was the first to recognise the importance of his services to science, the French Institute electing him a corresponding member in 1817. After this, honours and applause quickly followed from his own countrymen. In 1818 the Governor-General of India—then the Marquis of Hastings—decided that the survey should be withdrawn from the supervision of a local government and placed under the Supreme Government, with a view to its extension over all India, remarking at the same time that he was "not unaware that with minds of a certain order he might lay himself open to the idle imputation of vainly seeking to partake the gale of public favour and applause which the labours of Colonel Lambton had recently attracted"; but as the survey had reached the northern limits of the Madras Presidency, its transfer to the Supreme Government, if it was to be further extended, had become a necessity. He directed the transfer to be made, and the survey to be called in future the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India. Noticing that the intense mental and bodily labour of conducting it was being performed by Lambton alone, that his rank and advancing age demanded some relief from such severe fatigue, and further, that it was not right that an undertaking of such importance should hang on the life of a single individual, the Governor-General appointed two officers to assist him—Captain Everest, as chief assistant in the geodetic operations; and Dr. Voysey, as surgeon and geologist. Five years afterwards Lambton died, at the age of 70. The happy possessor of an unusually robust and energetic constitution and a genial temperament, he seems to have scarcely known a day's illness, though he never spared himself nor shrank from subjecting himself to privations and exposure which even Everest thought reckless and unjustifiable. These he accepted as a matter of course, saying little about them, and devoting his life calmly and unostentatiously to the interests of science and the service of his country.

Everest's career in the survey commenced disastrously. He was deputed by Lambton to carry a triangulation from Hyderabad, in the Nizam's territory, eastwards to the coast, crossing the forest-clad and fever-haunted basin of the Godavery river, a region which he described as "a dreadful wilderness, than which no part of the earth was more dreary, desolate, and fatal." Indignant at being taken there, his escort, a detachment of the Nizam's troops, mutinied, and soon afterwards he and his assistants, and almost all the men of his native establishment, were stricken down by a malignant fever; many died on the spot, and the survivors had to be carried into Hyderabad, whence litters and vehicles of all descriptions, and the whole of the public elephants, were despatched to their succour. To recover his health Everest was compelled to leave India for a while and proceed to the Cape of Good Hope, where he remained for three years. He availed himself of the opportunity to inspect Lacaille's meridional arc, which, when compared with the arcs north of the equator, indicated that the opposite hemispheres of the globe were seemingly of different ellipticities. He succeeded in tracing this anomaly to an error in the astronomical amplitude of the arc, which had been caused by deflection of the plumb-line at the ends of the arc, under the influence of the attraction of neighbouring mountains. Thus he became aware of the necessity of placing the astronomical stations of the Indian arcs at points where the plumb-line would not be liable to material deflection by the attraction of neighbouring mountain ranges. Shortly after his return to India Lambton died, and Everest succeeded him, and immediately concentrated his energies on the extension of the Great Arc northwards. He soon came to the conclusion that his instrumental equipment, though good for the time when it was procured, and amply sufficient for ordinary geographical purposes, was inadequate for the requirements of geodesy, and generally inferior to the equipments of the geodetic surveys then in progress in Europe. He therefore proceeded to Europe to study the procedure of the English and French surveys, and also to obtain a supply of new instruments of the latest and most improved forms. The Court of Directors of the Honourable East India Company accorded a most liberal assent to all his proposals, and gave him *carte blanche* to provide himself with whatever he considered desirable to satisfy all the requirements of science.

Everest returned to India with his new instrumental equipment in 1830, a year that marks the transition of the character of the operations from an order of accuracy which was sufficient as a basis for the graphical delineation of a comparatively small portion of the earth's surface, to the higher precision and refinement which modern geodesists have deemed essentially necessary for the determination of the figure and dimensions of the earth as a whole. He immediately introduced an important modification of the general design of the principal triangulation, which up to that time had been thrown as a network over the country on either side of the Great Arc, as in the English survey and many others; but he abandoned this method, and, adopting that of the French survey instead, he devised a system of meridional chains, to be carried at intervals of about 1° apart, and tied together by longitudinal chains at intervals of about 5°, the whole forming, from its resemblance to the homely culinary utensil with which we are all familiar, what has been called the gridiron system in contradistinction to the network. The entire triangulation was to rest on base-lines to be measured with the new Colby apparatus of compensation bars and microscopes which had been constructed to supersede the measuring chain the Emperor of China had rejected; the base-lines were to be placed at the intersections of the longitudinal chains of triangles with the central meridional or axial chain, and also at the further angles of the gridirons on each side. Latitudes were to be measured at certain of the stations of the central chain, with new astronomical circles in place of the old zenith sector, to give the required meridional arcs of amplitude. Two radical improvements on all previous procedure were introduced in the measurement of the principal angles, one affecting the observations, the other the objects observed. The great theodolites were manipulated in such a manner as not merely to reduce the effects of accidental errors by numerous repetitions in the usual way, but absolutely to eliminate all periodic errors of graduation by systematic changes of the position of the azimuthal circle relatively to the telescope, in the course of the complete series of measures of every angle. The objects formerly observed had been cairns of stones or other opaque signals; for these Everest substituted luminous signals, lamps by night, and, by day, heliotropes which were manipulated to reflect the sun's rays through diaphragms of small aperture, in pencils appearing like bright stars and capable of penetrating a dense atmosphere through which distant opaque objects could not be seen.

Everest's programme of procedure furnished the guiding principles on which the operations were carried out during the period of half a century which intervened between their commencement under his superintendence and the completion of the principal triangulation under myself. The external chains have necessarily been taken along the winding course of the frontier and coast-lines instead of the direct and more symmetrical lines of the meridians and the parallels of latitude. The number of the internal meridional chains has latterly been diminished by widening the spaces between them, and in two instances a principal chain has been dispensed with because, before it could be taken in hand, a good secondary triangulation had been carried over the area for which it was intended to provide. But these are departures from the letter rather than the spirit of Everest's programme, which has been faithfully followed throughout, first by his immediate successor, Sir Andrew Waugh, and afterwards by myself, thus affording an instance of the impress of a single mind on the work of half a century which is probably unique in the annals of India; for there, as is well known, changes of personal administration are frequent, and are not uncommonly followed by changes of procedure.

The physical features of a country necessarily exercise a considerable influence on the operations of any survey that may be carried over it, and more particularly on those of a geodetic survey, of which no portion is allowed to fall below a certain standard of precision. Every variety of feature, of scenery, and of climate that is to be met with anywhere on the earth's surface between the equator and the Arctic regions has its analogue between the highlands of Central Asia and the ocean, which define the limits of the area covered by the Indian survey. Thus in some parts the operations were accomplished with ease, celerity, and enjoyment, while in others they were very difficult and slow of progress, always entailing great exposure, and at times very deadly. In an open country, dotted with hills and commanding eminences, they advanced as on velvet; in close country, forest-clad or covered with other obstacles to distant vision, they were greatly retarded, for there it became necessary either to raise the stations to a sufficient height to overlook all surrounding obstacles, or to render them mutually visible by clearing the lines between them; and both these processes are more or less tedious and costly. There are many tracts of forest and jungle which greatly impeded the operations, not merely because of the physical difficulties they presented, but because they teemed with malaria, and were very deadly during the greater portion of the year, and more particularly immediately after the rainy seasons, when the atmosphere is usually clearest and most favourable for distant observations. At first tracts of forest, covering extensive plains, were considered impracticable; thus Lambton carried his network over the open country, and stopped it whenever it reached a great plain covered with forest and devoid of hills; but Everest's system would not permit of any break of continuity, nor the abandonment of any chain which was required to complete a gridiron; it has been carried out in all its integrity, often with much sacrifice of life, but never with any shrinking on the part of the survey officers from carrying out what it had become a point of honour with them to accomplish, and the accomplishment of which the Government had come to regard as a matter of course. We have already seen how the progress of Everest's first chain of triangles was suddenly arrested, because he and all his people were struck down by malaria in the pestilential regions of the Godavery basin. That chain remained untouched for fifty years; it was then resumed and completed, but with the loss of the executive officer, Mr. George Shelverton, who succumbed when he had not yet reached, but was within sight of, the east coast-line, the goal towards which his labours were directed. Many regions, as the basin of the Mahanaddi, the valley of Assam, the hill ranges of Tipperah, Chittagong, Arracan, and Burma, and those to the east of Moulmein and Tennasserim, which form the boundary between the British and the Siamese territories, are covered with dense forest, up to the summits of the peaks which had to be adopted as the sites of the survey stations. As a rule the peaks were far from the nearest habitation, and they could not be reached until pathways to them had been cut through forests tangled with a dense undergrowth of tropical jungle; not unfrequently large areas had to be cleared on the summits to open out the view of the surrounding country. Here the physical difficulties to be overcome were very considerable, and they were increased by the necessity that arose, in almost every instance, of importing labourers from a great distance to perform the necessary clearances. But the broad belt of forest tract known as the Terai, which is situated in the plains at the feet of the Nepalese Himalayas, was the most formidable region of all, because the climate was very deadly for a great portion of the year, and more particularly during the season when the atmosphere was most favourable for the observations, though the physical difficulties were not so great as in the hill tracts just mentioned, and labour was more easily procurable. Lying on the British frontier, at the northern extremities of no less than ten of the meridional chains of triangles, it had necessarily to be operated in to some extent, and Everest wished to carry the several chains across it, on to the outer Himalayan range, and then to connect them together by a longitudinal chain running along the range from east to west, completing the gridiron in this quarter. But the range was a portion of the Nepalese territories, and all Europeans—excepting those attached to the British embassy at Khatmandu—were debarred from entering any part of Nepal, by treaty with the British Government. Everest hoped that the rulers of Nepal might make an exception in his favour for the prosecution of a scientific survey; and when he found they would not, he urged the Government to compel them to give his surveyors access, at least, to their outlying hills; but he urged in vain, for the Government would not run the risk of embarking in a war with Nepal for purely scientific interests. Thus the connecting chain of triangles—now known as the N.E. Longitudinal Series—had to be carried through the whole length of the Terai, a distance of about 500 miles, which involved the construction of over 100 towers—raised to a height of about 30 feet to overlook the earth's curvature—and the clearance of about 2000 miles of line through forest and jungle to render the towers mutually visible. It required no small courage on Everest's part to plunge his surveyors into this region; he endeavoured to minimise the risks as much as possible by taking up the longitudinal chain in sections, bit by bit, on the completion of the successive meridional chains, and thus apportioning it between several survey parties, each operating in the Terai for a short time, instead of assigning it to a single party to execute continuously from end to end, as all the other chains of triangles. But notwithstanding these precautions, the peril was great, and the mortality among both officers and men was very considerable; greater than in many a famous battle, says Mr. Clements Markham, in an eloquent passage in his Memoir of the Indian Surveys, in which he claims for the surveyors who were employed on these operations—with no hope of reward other than the favourable notice of their immediate chief and colleagues—merit for more perilous and honourable achievement than much of the military service which is plentifully rewarded by the praises of men and prizes of all kinds.

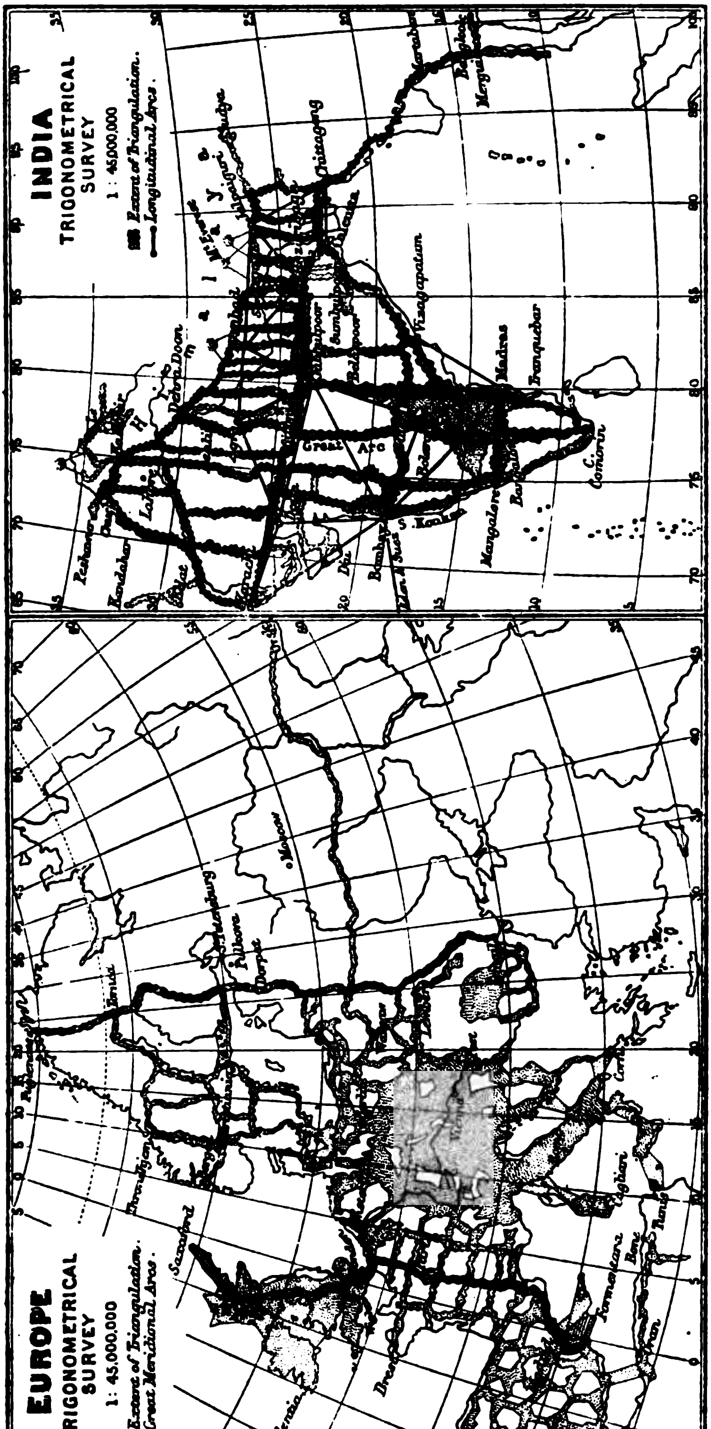
Everest retired in 1843, and was succeeded by Waugh, who applied himself energetically to the completion of the several chains of triangles exterior to the Great Arc, for which he obtained a substantial addition to the existing equipment of great theodolites. It was under him that the formidable longitudinal series through the Terai, which had been begun by Everest, was chiefly carried out. He personally initiated the determination of the positions and heights of the principal snow peaks of the Himalayan ranges; and he did much for the advancement of the general topography of India, which had somewhat languished under his predecessor, who had devoted himself chiefly to the geodetic operations. He retired in 1861, and I succeeded to the charge of the Great Trigonometrical Survey. The last chain of the principal triangulation was completed in 1882, shortly before my own retirement.

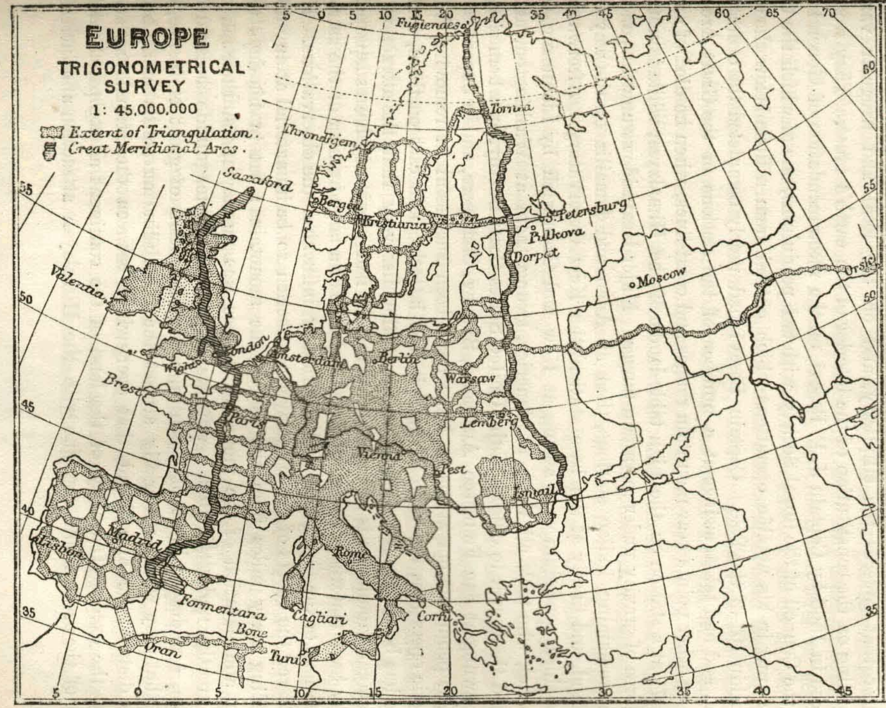
Of the general character of the operations, it may be asserted without hesitation that a degree of accuracy and precision has been attained which has been reached by few and surpassed by none of the great national surveys carried out in other parts of the world, and which leaves nothing to be desired even for the requirements of geodesy; a very considerable majority of the principal angles have been measured with the great 24-inch and 36-inch theodolite, and their theoretical probable error averages about a quarter of a second; of the linear measurements the probable error, so far as calculable, may be taken as not exceeding the two-millionth part of any measured length. And as regards the extent of the triangulation, if we ignore the primary network in Southern India, and all secondary triangulation, however valuable for geographical purposes, we still have a number of principal chains—meridional, longitudinal, and oblique—of which the aggregate length is 17,300 miles, which contain 9230 first-class angles all observed, and rest on eleven base-lines measured with the Colby apparatus of compensation bars and microscopes. This prodigious amount of field-work furnishes an enormous mass of interdependent angular and linear measures; and each of these is fallible in some degree, for, great as was the accuracy and care with which they had severally been executed, perfect accuracy of measurement is as yet beyond human achievement; thus every circuit of triangles, every chain closing on a base-line, and even every single triangle, presented discrepancies the magnitude of which was greater or less according as derived from a combination of many, or only of a few, of the fallible facts of observation. Thus, when the field operations were approaching their termination, the question arose as to how these facts were to be harmonised and rendered consistent throughout, which was a very serious matter considering their great number. The strict application of mathematical theory to a problem of this nature requires the adjustment to be effected by the application of a correction to every fact of observation, not arbitrarily, but in such a manner as to give it its proper weight, neither more nor less, in the final investigation, and in this the whole of the facts must be treated simultaneously. That would have involved the simultaneous solution of upwards of 4000 equations between 9230 unknown quantities, by what is called the method of minimum squares, and I need scarcely say that it is practically impossible to solve such a number of equations between so many unknown quantities by any method at all. Thus a compromise had to be made between the theoretically desirable and the practically possible. It would be out of place here to attempt to describe the method of treatment which was eventually adopted, after much thought and deliberation; I will merely say that the bulk of the triangulation was divided into five sections, each of which was treated in succession with as close approximation to the mathematically rigorous method as was practically possible; but even then the mass of simultaneous interdependent calculation to be performed in each instance was enormous, I believe greatly exceeding anything of the kind as yet attempted in any other survey. But the happy result of all this labour was that the final corrections of the angles were for the most part very minute, less than the theoretical probable errors of the angles, and thus fairly applicable without taking any liberties with the facts of observation. If the attribute of beauty may ever be bestowed on such things as small numerical quantities, it may surely be accorded to these notable results of very laborious calculations, which, while in themselves so small, were so admirably effective in introducing harmony and precision throughout the entire triangulation.

If now we turn once more to what Lambton calls "the sublime science of geodesy," which was held in such high regard by both him and Everest, we shall find that the great meridional arc between Cape Comorin and the Himalayas, on which they laboured with so much energy and devotion, is not the only contribution to that science to which the Indian triangulation is subservient, but every chain of triangles—meridional, longitudinal, or oblique—may be made to throw light either on geodesy, the science of the figure of the earth, or on geognosy, the science of the earth's interior structure, when combined with corresponding astronomical arcs of amplitude. Thus each of the several meridional chains of triangles may be utilised in this way, as their prototype has been, by having latitude observations taken at certain of their stations to give meridional arcs; and the several longitudinal chains of triangles may also be utilised—in combination with the main lines of telegraph—by electro-telegraphic determinations of differential longitudes to give arcs of parallel. When the stations of the triangulation which are resorted to for the astronomical observations are situated in localities where the normal to the surface coincides fairly with the corresponding normal to the earth's figure, the result is valuable as a contribution to geodesy; when the normal to the surface is sensibly deflected by local attraction, the result gives a measure of the deflection which is valuable as a contribution to geognosy.

Having regard to these circumstances, I moved the Government to supply the Trigonometrical Survey with the necessary instruments for the measurement of the supplemental astronomical arcs; and as officers became available on the gradual completion of the successive chains of triangles, I employed some of them in the required determinations of latitude and differential longitude. It so happened that about the same time geodesists in Europe began to recognise the advantages to science to be acquired by connecting the triangulations of the different nationalities together, and supplementing them with arcs of amplitude. The "International Geodetic Association for the Measurement of Degrees in Europe" was formed in consequence, and it has been, and is still, actively employed in carrying out this object; in India, however, the triangulation was complete and connected throughout, so that only the astronomical amplitudes were wanting. They are still in progress, but already meridional chains, aggregating 1840 miles in length, and lying to the west of the Great Arc, have been converted into meridional arcs; and the three longitudinal chains, from Madras to Mangalore, from Bombay to Vizagapatam, and from Kurrachee viâ Calcutta to Chittagong, of which the aggregate length is 2600 miles, have been converted into arcs of parallel. In the former the operations follow the meridional course of the chains of triangles; in the latter they follow the principal lines of the electric telegraph, which sometimes diverge greatly from the direction of the longitudinal chains of triangles, the two only intersecting at occasional points; the astronomical stations are therefore placed at the trigonometrical points which may happen to be nearest the telegraph lines, whether on the meridional or on the longitudinal chains, and their positions are invariably so selected as to form self-verificatory circuits which are usually of a triangular form, presenting three differential arcs of longitude; each of these arcs is measured independently as regards the astronomical work—though for the third arc there is usually no independent telegraph line, but only a coupling of the lines for the first and second arcs—and this has been proved to give such an excellent check on the accuracy of the operations, that it is not too much to say that no telegraphic longitude operations are entirely reliable which have not been verified in some such manner.

Through the courtesy of Colonel Stotherd, Director-General of the Ordnance Survey, I am enabled to exhibit two charts, one of the triangulation of India, the other of that of Europe, which have recently been enlarged to the same scale in the Ordnance Survey Office at Southampton for purposes of comparison. The first is taken from the official chart of the Indian survey, and shows the great meridional and longitudinal chains and Lambton's network of principal triangles, the positions of the base-lines measured with the Colby apparatus, the latitude and the differential longitude stations, the triangular circuits of the longitudinal arcs, the stations of the pendulum and the tidal operations which will be noticed presently, and the secondary triangulations to fix the peaks of the Himalayan and Sulimani ranges, and the positions of Bangkok in Siam and Kandahar in Afghanistan, the extreme eastern and western points yet reached. The chart of the European triangulation has been enlarged from one published by the International Geodetic Association of Europe; in it special prominence is given to the Russian meridional arc, which extends from the Danube to the Arctic Ocean, and is 25° 20′ in length, and to the combined English and French meridional arc, 22° 10′ in length, which extends from the Balearic Island of Formentera in the Mediterranean, to Saxaford in the Shetland Islands. The aggregate length of the meridional arcs already completed in India is about equal to that of the English, French, and Russian arcs combined; but the longest in India is about 1¼° shorter than the Russian. As regards longitudinal arcs, I believe the two which were first measured in India, and were employed shortly afterwards by Colonel Clarke in his last investigation of the figure of the earth, are the only ones which have as yet been deemed sufficiently accurate to be made use of in such investigations, though arcs of much greater length have been measured in Europe. It would be interesting, if time permitted, to set forth the salient points of divergence between the systems of the Indian and the European surveys; I will only mention that in the southern part of the Russian arc, for a space of about 8° from the Duna to the Dneister, a vast plain, covered with immense and almost impenetrable forests, presented great obstacles to the prosecution of the work; the difficulty was overcome by the erection of a large number of lofty stations of observation, wooden scaffoldings which were 120 and even as much as 146 feet high, to overlook the forests. In Indian forests, as the Terai on the borders between British and Nepalese territories, the stations were rarely raised to a greater height than 30 feet, or just sufficient to overtop the curvature, and all trees and other obstacles were cleared away on the lines between them: this was found the most expeditious and economical process. The stations were very substantial, with a central masonry pillar, for the support of a great theodolite, which was isolated from the surrounding platform for the support of the observer. The lofty Russian scaffoldings only sufficed for small theodolites, and they were so liable to shake and vibration, that the theodolites had to be fitted with two telescopes to be pointed simultaneously by two observers at the pair of stations, the angle between which was being measured.


INDIA
TRIGONOMETRICAL
SURVEY
1 : 45,000,000
Extent of Triangulation.
Longitudinal Arcs.
Great Arc
Madras
Tranquebar
Vizagapatam
Bombay
Mangalore
C. Comorin
Karachi
Dehra Doon
Kandahar
Peshawar
Chittagong
EUROPE
TRIGONOMETRICAL
SURVEY
1 : 45,000,000
Extent of Triangulation.
Great Meridional Arcs.
Valentia
Saxaford
Brest
Formentera
Oran
Bone
Cagliari
Moscow
Dorpat
Pulkova
Tornea


EUROPE
TRIGONOMETRICAL SURVEY
1: 45,000,000
Extent of Triangulation.
Great Meridional Arcs.
Fuglenaes
Tornea
Throndhjem
Saxaford
Bergen
Kristiania
St. Petersburg
Pulkova
Dorpat
Moscow
Orsk
Valentia
London
Amsterdam
Berlin
Warsaw
Brest
Paris
Lemberg
Vienna
Pest
Ismail
Madrid
Lisbon
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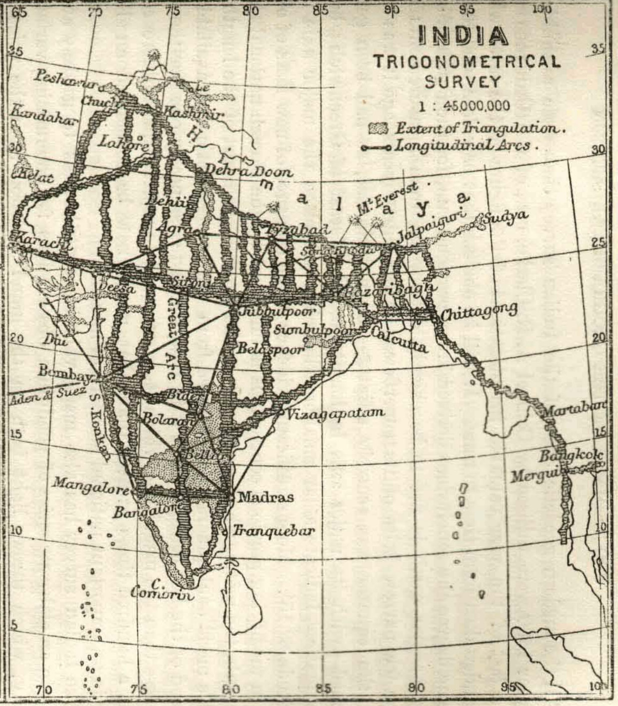
INDIA
TRIGONOMETRICAL SURVEY
1 : 45,000,000
Extent of Triangulation.
Longitudinal Arcs.
Peshawur
Kandahar
Kashmir
Lahore
Kelat
Dehra Doon
Mt. Everest
Dehli
Agra
Fyzabad
Jalpaiguri
Sudya
Karachi
Seroni
Deesa
Hazaribagh
Chittagong
Jubbulpoor
Sumbulpoor
Calcutta
Great Arc
Belaspoor
Bombay
Aden & Suez
Konkan
Vizagapatam
Bolaram
Bellary
Martaban
Bangkok
Mergui
Mangalore
Madras
Bangalore
Tranquebar
C. Comorin

All the modern geodetic data of the Indian survey that were available up to the year 1880 were utilised by Colonel A. R. Clarke, C.B., of the Ordnance Survey, in the last of the very valuable investigations of the figure of the earth which he has undertaken from time to time. It will be obvious that new data tend to modify in some degree the conclusions derived from previous data, for the figure of so large a globe as our earth is not to be exactly determined from measurements carried over a few narrow belts of its superficies. Thus thirty years ago it was inferred that the equator was sensibly elliptic—and not circular, as had been generally assumed—with its major axis in longitude 15° 34′ east of Greenwich; but later investigations indicate a far smaller ellipticity, and place the major axis in west longitude 8° 15′. More significant evidence of the influence of new facts of observation in modifying previous conclusions is furnished by the French national standard of length, the mètre, which was fixed at the ten-millionth part of the length of the earth's meridional quadrant, as deduced from the best geodetic data available up to the end of the last century; but it is now found to be nearly one five-thousandth part less than the magnitude which it is supposed to represent, the difference being about a hundred times greater than what would now be considered an allowable error in an important national standard of measure.

The Indian survey has also made valuable contributions to geodesy and geognosy in an elaborate series of pendulum observations for determining variations of gravity, which throws light both on the grand variation from the poles to the equator that governs the ellipticity, and on the local and irregular variations depending on the constitution of the interior of the earth's crust. They were commenced in 1865 by Captain J. P. Basevi, on the recommendation of General Sabine and the Council of the Royal Society, with two pendulums, one of which the General had swung in his notable operations which extend from a little below the equator to within 10° of the Pole. Captain Basevi had nearly completed the operations in India, and had taken swings at a number of the stations of the Great Arc and at various other points near mountain ranges and coast-lines, when he died of exposure in 1871 at a station on the high table-lands of the Himalayas, while investigating the force of gravity under mountain ranges. Major Heaviside swung the pendulums at the remaining Indian stations, then at Aden and Ismailia on the way back to England, and finally at the base station, the Kew Observatory. Afterwards they and a third pendulum were swung at Kew and Greenwich by Lieutenant-Colonel Herschel, who took all three to America, swung them at Washington, and then handed them over to officers of the United States Coast Survey, by whom they have been swung at San Francisco, Auckland, Sydney, Singapore, and in Japan.

The pendulum operations in India have been successful in removing from the geodetic operations the reproach which had latterly been cast on them, that their value has become much diminished since the discovery that the attraction of the Himalayan mountains is so much greater than had previously been suspected, that it may have materially deflected the plumb-line at a large number of the astronomical stations of the Great Arc, and injuriously influenced the observations. Everest considered the effects of the Himalayan attraction to be immaterial at any distance exceeding sixty miles from the feet of the mountains; but in his days the full extent and elevation of the mountain masses was unknown, and their magnitude was greatly underestimated. Afterwards, when the magnitude became better known, Archdeacon Pratt of Calcutta, a mathematician of great eminence, calculated that they would materially attract the plumb-line at points many hundred miles distant; he also found that everywhere between the Himalayas and the ocean, the excess of density of the land of the continent as compared with the water of the ocean would combine with the Himalayan attraction and increase the deflection of the plumb-line northwards, towards the great mountain ranges, and that under the joint influence of the Himalayas and the ocean the level of the sea at Kurrachee would be raised 560 feet above the level at Cape Comorin.

But as a matter of fact the Indian arc gave a value of the earth's ellipticity which agreed sufficiently closely with the values derived from the arcs measured in all other quarters of the globe, to show that it could not have been largely distorted by deflections of the plumb-line; thus it appeared that whereas Everest might have slightly underestimated the Himalayan attraction, Pratt must have greatly overestimated it. His calculations were however based on reliable data, and were indubitably correct. For some time the contradiction remained unexplained, but eventually Sir George Airy put forward the hypothesis that the influence of the Himalayan masses must be counteracted by some compensatory disposition of the matter of the earth's crust immediately below them, and in which they are rooted; he suggested that the bases of the mountains had sunk to some depth into a fluid lava which he conceived to exist below the earth's crust, and that the sinking had caused a displacement of dense matter by lighter matter below, which would tend to compensate for the excess of matter above. Now Pratt's calculations had reference only to the visible mountain and oceanic masses, and their attractive influences—the former positive, the latter negative—in a horizontal direction; he had no data for investigating the density of the crust of the earth below either the mountains on the one hand, or the bed of the ocean on the other. The pendulum observations furnished the first direct measures of the vertical force of gravity in different localities which were obtained, and these measures revealed two broad facts regarding the disposition of the invisible matter below; first, that the force of gravity diminishes as the mountains are approached, and is very much less on the summit of the highly elevated Himalayan table-lands than can be accounted for otherwise than by a deficiency of matter below; secondly, that it increases as the ocean is approached, and is greater on islands than can be accounted for otherwise than by an excess of matter below. Assuming gravity to be normal on the coast-lines, the mean observed increase at the island stations was such as to cause a seconds' pendulum to gain three seconds daily, and the mean observed decrease in the interior of the continent would have caused the pendulum to lose 2¼ seconds daily at stations averaging 1200 feet above the sea-level, 5 seconds at 3800 feet, and about 22 seconds at 15,400 feet—the highest elevation reached—in excess of the normal loss of rate due to height above the sea.

Pratt was strongly opposed to the hypothesis of a substratum, or magma, of fluid igneous rock beneath the mountains; he assumed the earth to be solid throughout, and regarded the mountains as an expansion of the invisible matter below, which thus becomes attenuated and lighter than it is under regions of less elevation, and more particularly in the depressions and contractions below the bed of the ocean. And certainly we seem to have more reason to conclude that the mountains emanate from the subjacent matter of the earth's crust than that they are as wholly independent of it as if they were formed of stuff shot from passing meteors and asteroids; any severance of continuity and association between the visible above and the invisible below appears, on the face of it, to be decidedly improbable.

The hypothesis of sub-continental attenuation and sub-oceanic condensation of matter is supported by the two arcs of longitude on the parallels of Madras and Bombay; for at the extreme points of these arcs, which are situated on the opposite coast-lines, the horizontal attraction has been found to be not landwards, as might have been anticipated, but seawards, showing that the deficient density of the sea as compared with the land is more than compensated by the greater density of the matter under the ocean than of that under the land.

While on the subject of the constitution of the earth's crust, I may draw attention to the circumstance that the tidal observations which have been carried on at a number of points on the coasts of India, as a part of the operations of the Survey, tend to show that the earth is solid to its core, and that the geological hypothesis of a fluid interior is untenable. They have been analysed by Prof. G. H. Darwin, with a view to the determination of a numerical estimate of the rigidity of the earth, and he has ascertained that whilst there is some evidence of a tidal yielding of the earth's mass, that yielding is certainly small, and the effective rigidity is very considerable, not so great as that of steel as was at first surmised, but sufficient to afford an important confirmation of the justice of Sir William Thomson's conclusion as to the great rigidity.

The Indian pendulum observations have been employed by Colonel Clarke, in combination with those taken in other parts of the globe, to determine the earth's ellipticity. Formerly there was wont to be a material difference between the ellipticities which were respectively derived from pendulum observations and direct geodetic measurements, the former being somewhat greater than $\frac{1}{290}$, the latter somewhat less than $\frac{1}{300}$; but as new and more exact data became available, the values derived from these two essentially independent sources became more and more accordant, and they now nearly agree in the value $\frac{1}{293}$.

As a part of the pendulum operations, a determination of the length of the seconds' pendulum was made at Kew by Major Heaviside, with the pendulum which had been employed for the same purpose by Kater early in the present century, when leading men of science in England believed that in the event of the national standard yard being destroyed or lost, the length might be reproduced at any time with the aid of a reversible pendulum. In consequence of this belief an Act of Parliament was passed in 1824 which defined the relations between the imperial yard and the seconds' pendulum, the length of the former being to that of the latter—swung in the latitude of London, in a vacuum and at the level of the sea—in the proportion of 36 inches to 39·1393 inches. Thus, while the French took for their unit of length the ten-millionth part of the earth's meridional quadrant, the English took the pendulum swinging seconds in the latitude of London. In case of loss the yard is obviously recoverable more readily and inexpensively by reference to the pendulum than the mètre by reference to the quadrant; it is also recoverable with greater accuracy; still the accuracy is not nearly what would now be deemed indispensable for the determination of a national standard of length, and it is now generally admitted that every pendulum has certain latent defects, the influence of which cannot be exactly ascertained; thus the instrument cannot be relied on as a suitable one for determinations of absolute length; but, on the other hand, so long as its condition remains unaltered, it is the most reliable instrument yet discovered for differential determinations of the variations of gravity. In truth, however, the pendulum is a very wearisome instrument to employ even for this purpose, for it has to be swung many days and with constant care and attention to give a single satisfactory determination; thus if such a thing can be invented and perfected as a good differential-gravity meter, light and portable, with which satisfactory results can be obtained in a few hours instead of many days, the boon to science will be very great.

The trigonometrical operations fix with extreme accuracy two of the co-ordinates—the latitude and longitude—which define the positions of the principal stations; but the third co-ordinate, the height, is not susceptible of being determined by such operations with anything like the same degree of accuracy, because of the variations of refraction to which rays of light passing through the lower strata of the atmosphere are liable, as the temperature of the surface of the ground changes in the course of the day. In the plains the apparent height of a station 10 to 12 miles from the observer has been found to be upwards of 100 feet greater in the cool of the night than in the heat of the day, the refraction being always positive when the lower atmospheric strata are chilled and laden with dew, and negative when they are rarefied by the heat radiated from the surface of the ground. At hill stations the rays of light usually pass high above the surface of the ground, and the diurnal variations of refraction are comparatively immaterial, and very good results are obtained by the expedient of taking the vertical observations between reciprocating stations at the same hour of the day, and as nearly as possible at the time of minimum refraction; but in the plains this expedient does not usually suffice to give reliable results. The hill ranges of central and those of northern India are separated by a broad belt of plains, which embraces the greater portion of Sind, the Punjab, Rajputana, and the valley of the Ganges, and is crossed by a very large number of the principal chains of triangles, on the lines where the chart shows stretches of comparatively small triangles, which are in most instances of considerable length. Thus it became necessary to run lines of spirit levels over these plains, from sea to sea, to check the trigonometrical heights. The opportunity was taken advantage of to connect all the levels which had been executed for irrigation and other public works, and reduce them to a common datum; and eventually lines of level were carried along the coast and from sea to sea to connect the tidal stations. The aggregate length of the standard lines of level executed up to the present time is nearly 10,000 miles, and an extensive series of charts of the levels derived from other departments of the public service and reduced to the survey datum has already been published.

The survey datum which has been adopted for all heights, whether deduced trigonometrically or by spirit-levelling, is the mean sea-level as determined, either for initiation or verification, by tidal observations at several points on the coast-lines. At first the observations were restricted to what was necessary for the requirements of the survey, and their duration was limited to a lunar month at each station. In 1872 more exact determinations were called for, to ascertain whether gradual changes in the relative level of land and sea were taking place at the head of the Gulf of Cutch, as had been surmised by the geological surveyors, and observations were taken for over a year at three tidal stations on the coasts of the gulf, to be repeated hereafter when a sufficient period had elapsed to permit of a measurable change of level having taken place. Finally, in 1875, the Government intimated that as "the great scientific advantages of a systematic record of tidal observations on Indian coasts had been frequently urged and admitted," such observations should be taken at all the principal ports and at such points on the coast lines as were best suited for investigations of the laws of the tides. In accordance with these instructions, five years' observations have been made at several points, and new stations are taken up as the operations at the first ones are completed.

The initiation of the later and more elaborate operations is due in great measure to the recommendations of the Tidal Committee of the British Association, of which Sir William Thomson was President. The tidal observations have been treated by the method of harmonic analysis advocated by the Committee. The constants for amplitude and epoch are determined for every tidal component, both of long and of short periods, and with their aid tide-tables are now prepared and published annually for each of the principal ports; and further, it is with them that Professor G. H. Darwin made the investigations of the effective rigidity of the earth, which I have already mentioned. The very remarkable waves which were caused by the earthquake on December 31st, 1881, in the Bay of Bengal, and by the notable volcanic eruptions in the island of Krakatoa and the Straits of Sunda on August 27th and 28th, 1883, were registered at several of the tidal stations, and thus valuable evidence has been furnished of the velocities of both the earth-wave and the ocean-wave which are generated by such disturbances of the ordinarily quiescent condition of the earth's crust.

I must not close this account of the non-graphical, or more purely scientific operations of the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India without saying something of the officers who were employed thereon, under the successive superintendence of Everest, Waugh, and myself. A considerable majority were military, from all branches of the army—the cavalry and infantry, as well as the corps of engineers and artillery; the remainder were civilians, mostly promoted from the subordinate grades. Prominent shares in the operations were taken by Lieutenant Renny, Bengal Engineers, afterwards well known in this neighbourhood as Colonel Renny Tailyour, of Borrowfield in Forfarshire, of whom and his contemporary, Lieutenant Waugh, Everest, retiring, reported in terms of the highest commendation; by Reginald Walker, of the Bengal Engineers, George Logan, George Shelverton, and Henry Beverley, all of whom fell victims to jungle fever; by Strange, F.R.S., of the Madras Cavalry, whose name is associated with the construction of the modern geodetic instruments of the Survey; by Jacob—afterwards Government Astronomer at Madras—Rivers, and Haig, all of the Bombay Engineers; Tennant, C.I.E., F.R.S., Bengal Engineers, afterwards Master of the Mint in Calcutta; Montgomerie, F.R.S., of the Bengal Engineers, whose name is best remembered in connection with the Trans-Himalayan geographical operations; James Basevi, of the Bengal Engineers, who so sadly died of exposure while engaged on the pendulum operations in the higher Himalayas; Branfill, of the Bengal Cavalry; Thuillier, Carter, Campbell, Trotter, Heaviside, Rogers, Hill, and Baird, F.R.S., all engineer officers; also Hennessey, C.I.E., F.R.S., M.A., Herschel, F.R.S., and Cole, M.A., whose names are intimately associated with the collateral mathematical investigations and the final reduction of the principal triangulation.

The Trigonometrical Survey owes very much to the liberal and even generous support which it has invariably received from the Supreme Government, with the sanction and approval, first of the Directors of the East India Company, and afterwards of the Secretary of State for India. In times of war and financial embarrassment the scope of the operations has been curtailed, the establishments have been reduced, and some of the military officers sent to join the armies in the field; but whatever the crisis, the operations have never been wholly suspended. Even during the troubles of 1857–58, following the mutiny of the native army, they were carried on in some parts of the country though arrested in others: and the then Viceroy, Lord Canning, on receiving the reports of the progress of the operations during that eventful period, immediately acknowledged them to the Surveyor-General, Colonel Waugh, in a letter from which the following extract is taken:—

"I cannot resist telling you at once with how much satisfaction I have seen these papers. It is a pleasure to turn from the troubles and anxieties with which India is still beset, and to find that a gigantic work, of permanent peaceful usefulness, and one which will assuredly take the highest rank as a work of scientific labour and skill, has been steadily and rapidly progressing through all the turmoil of the last two years."

The operations have been uninfluenced by changes of *personnel* in the administration of the Indian Empire, as Governor-Generals and Viceroys succeeded each other, but have met with uniform and consistent support and encouragement. It may well be doubted whether any similar undertaking, in any other part of the world, has been equally favoured and as munificently maintained.

In conclusion I must state that I have purposely said nothing of the graphical operations executed in the Trigonometrical and other branches of the Survey of India, because they are more generally known, their results appear in maps which speak for themselves, and time would not permit of my attempting to describe them also. They comprise, *first*, the general topography of all India, mostly on the standard scale of 1 inch to the mile; *secondly*, geographical surveys and explorations of regions beyond the British frontier, notably such as are being carried on at the present time on the Russo-Afghan frontier, by Major Holdich and other officers of the Survey; *thirdly*, the so-called Revenue Survey of the British districts in the Bengal Presidency, which is simply a topographical survey on an enlarged scale—4 inches to the mile—showing the boundaries and areas of villages for fiscal requirements; and *fourthly*, the Cadastral Survey of certain of the British districts in the Bengal Presidency, showing fields and the boundaries of all properties, on scales of 16 to 32 inches to the mile. There are also certain large scale surveys of portions of British districts in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies, which, though undertaken originally for purely fiscal purposes by revenue and settlement officers working independently of the professional survey, have latterly been required to contribute their quota to the general topography of the country. And of late years a survey branch has been added to the Forest Department, to provide it with working maps constructed for its own requirements on a larger scale than the standard topographical scale, but on a trigonometrical basis, and in co-operation with the Survey Department. But this brief capitulation gives no sort of idea of the vast amount of valuable topographical and other work for the requirements of the local Administrations and the public at large—always toilsome, often perilous—which has been accomplished, quite apart from and in quantity far exceeding the non-graphical and more purely scientific work which I have been describing. Its magnitude and variety are such that a mere list of the officers who have taken prominent shares in it, from first to last, would be too long to read to you. Three names, however, I must mention: *first*, that of General Sir Henry Thuillier, who became Surveyor-General on the same day that I succeeded to the superintendence of the Great Trigonometrical Survey, and with whom I had the honour of co-operating for many years; under his administration a much larger amount of topography was executed than under any of his predecessors, and a great impetus was given to the lithographic, photographic, engraving and other offices in which the maps of the Survey are published; *secondly*, that of Colonel Sconce, who became Deputy Surveyor-General soon after my accession in 1878 to the Surveyor-Generalship, and with whom I was associated for some years, much to my gratification and advantage, in various matters, but more particularly in the establishment of cadastral surveys on a professional basis at a moderate cost, to render them more generally feasible, which was a matter of the utmost importance for the administration of the more highly populated portions of the British provinces; and *thirdly*, that of Lieutenant-Colonel Waterhouse, who has for many years superintended the offices in which photography is employed, in combination with zincography and lithography, for the speedy reproduction *en masse* of the maps of the Survey, and has done much to develop the art of photogravure, whereby drawings in brushwork and mezzotint may be reproduced with a degree of excellence rivalling the best copperplate engraving, and almost as speedily and cheaply as drawings in pen-and-ink work are reproduced by photozincography.

Mr. Clements Markham's Memoir on the Indian Surveys gives the best account yet published of the several graphical surveys up to the year 1878. In that year the Trigonometrical, the Topographical, and the Revenue branches, which up to that time had constituted three separate and almost independent departments, were amalgamated together into what is now officially designated "the Survey of India." In the same year the chronicle so well commenced by Mr. Markham came to an end on his retirement from the India Office—unfortunately, for it is a work of excellence in object and in execution, and most encouraging to Indian surveyors, who find their labours recorded in it with intelligent appreciation and kindly recognition.

During the present meeting, several papers by officers of the Survey will be read —one by Colonel Barron, in person, on the cadastral surveys in the organisation of which he has taken a leading share; by Major Baird, on the work of the spirit-levelling which he superintends conjointly with the tidal observations; by Colonel Godwin Austen, on Lieutenant-Colonel Woodthorpe's recent journey from Upper Assam to the Irawadi river; by Colonel Branfill, on the physical geography of Southern India; and by Colonel Tanner, on portions of the Himalayas and on recent explorations in Southern Tibet. Major Bailey will also read a paper on the forest surveys.

NEW GEOGRAPHICAL PUBLICATIONS.

(By J. Scott Keltie, *Librarian* R.G.S.)

ASIA.

[Asia.]—Centenary Review of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. From 1784 to 1883. Published by the Society. Calcutta, Thacker, Spink & Co., 1885: pp. 195, iv., 216, ciii., 109, xcvi., 20.

This is an interesting record of a hundred years' valuable work. We have first the history of the Society, the parent of all Asiatic Societies, by Dr. Rajendralala Mitra. The object of the Society was, in the terms of the original resolution, "enquiring into the history and antiquities, arts, sciences, and literature of Asia." How well the Society has carried out its purpose is evident from the present record of its century's work. It was only in 1851 that the Society formally recognised the title of "The Asiatic Society of Bengal," to distinguish it from the subsequently founded Asiatic Society, which has its seat in London.

The Appendices to Part I. are—A. A statement showing the number of members on the rolls of the Society from time to time (89 in 1788, 323 in 1883); B. List of Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and Secretaries of the Society; C. List of books published, directly or indirectly, by the Society; D. Index to the papers and contributions to the Asiatick Researches, and the Journal and Proceedings of the Society.

The second part of this volume is devoted to a record of the work which has been done in archæology, history, literature, &c., and is from the pen of Dr. A. F. Rudolf Hœrnle. This part is divided into five chapters:—I. Antiquities. II. Coins. III. Ancient Indian Alphabets. IV. History. V. Language and Literature. There are two appendices to the chapter on history, and a classified index to the scientific papers in the Society's publications:—I. Antiquities. II. Coins, Gems, Weights and Measures. III. History. IV. Language and Literature. V. Religion, Manners, Customs, &c.

Part. III. deals with Natural Science, by Mr. P. N. Bose. Chapter I. is devoted to Mathematical and Physical Science. Chapter II. Geology. Chapter III. Zoology. Chapter IV. Botany. Chapter V. Geography (1. The Himalayas. 2. Assam and the North-eastern Frontier. 3. Burma, Islands in the Bay of Bengal, China, &c. 4. Southern India. 5. Western India and the North-western Frontier. 6. Afghanistan and Central Asia). Chapter VI. Ethnology. Chapter VII. Chemistry. Chapter VIII. The Museum. Appended is a classified index to the various papers coming under each of these sections. Finally, we have a report of the proceedings of the Special Centenary Meeting of the Society in Calcutta, on January 15th, 1884.