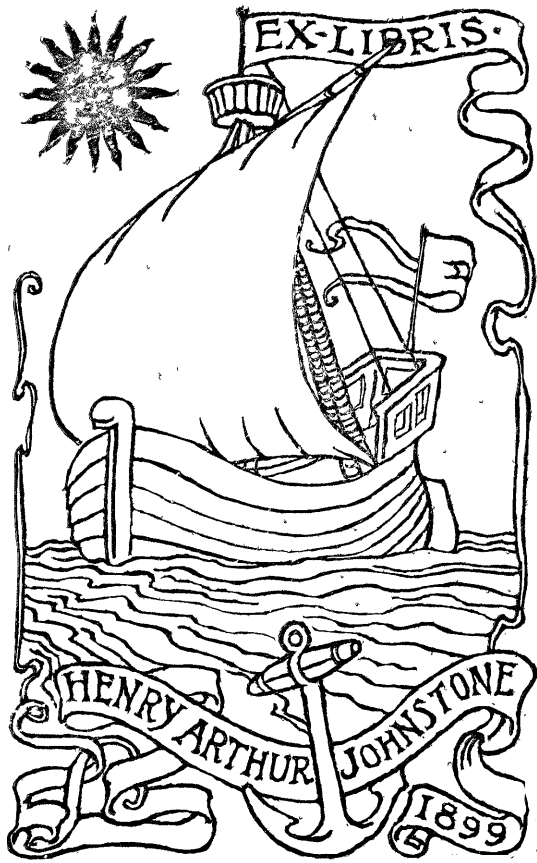




1895





Sir George Reid, F.R.S.A. Pinx.

F. Hutch. Sc.

George Reid

THE
LIFE AND CORRESPONDENCE
OF THE RIGHT HON.
SIR BARTLE FRERE
BART., G.C.B., F.R.S., ETC.

By JOHN MARTINEAU.

Τὸ εὖθες, οὐ τὸ γενναῖον πλεῖστον μετέχει.
THUCYDIDES, iii. 83

IN TWO VOLUMES.
VOL. I.

SECOND EDITION.

LONDON:
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.
1895.

LONDON :
PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, LIMITED,
STAMFORD STREET AND CHARING CROSS.

P R E F A C E.



“I HAVE always felt, that of those who wrote and spoke most strongly against the course I had taken in South Africa, some did so in blind reliance on party leaders, and all from very imperfect knowledge of facts, and I felt sure that in time, though not perhaps in my time, my countrymen here would do me the same justice as they who live in South Africa have done me from the first.”

Thus Sir Bartle Frere wrote to a friend about a year before his death.

To do him this justice, nothing but a plain statement of facts is needed. That such a statement was not and could not be made in his lifetime is due to several causes.

As regarded himself and his own treatment, he had at once too much modesty and too much self-respect to urge a personal grievance. And as to his policy, he could not, as an official, publicly challenge the acts and conduct of the governments under which he had served. Nor could he appeal to documents which were protected as confidential, many of which—though by no means all—are now, by lapse of time, or by the death or leave of their authors or their representatives, set free for publication. Members of the House of Commons fourteen years ago were already losing something of their ancient independence; and whenever the two great parties were, through ignorance or

interest, both committed to any definite policy, it was becoming next to impossible for any private member to obtain a hearing for the case against it.

The task, even now, of writing his life has been a very difficult one. The events in which he took a leading part during his official career were so momentous, so beset by conflicting views on the part of the actors in them, and so multifarious and diverse in their nature and locality that an unusually protracted and laborious investigation was required to grasp the surrounding circumstances, and to present the facts and documents in their right order and relation, so that they might tell their own story with but little comment.

In transcribing letters the question arose how to deal with the variations which occur in the spelling of Indian and other names. The obvious course was to copy the spelling as it stood. But for the text it was of course expedient to adopt a uniform standard ; and on the whole it seemed best for the sake of consistency, and in order to prevent confusion occurring from different spellings of the same place, to adopt a uniform standard for both letters and text, altering the former when necessary. The one adopted is that generally employed by Sir Bartle Frere. But he is not always consistent ; he writes, for instance, indifferently, Scinde and Sind, Punjaub and Punjab, Affghan and Afghan, Muscat and Maskat. Some inconsistencies may still have escaped notice, and especially in the case of obscure places not traceable on the map mistakes may have crept in. If so, the fault is mine.

I must express my sincere thanks to the many friends of Sir Bartle Frere who have given so much time and shown so much patience, in personal interviews and in writing, in order to assist me, and without whose help my task would have been an impossible one. To give a complete list of

these names would exceed the appropriate limits of a preface, but amongst many others, I would especially mention the following : Sir Henry Acland, Admiral Adeane, Mr. John Arthur and Mrs. Arthur, the late Sir George Balfour, Sir George Birdwood, Sir Frederic Goldsmid, Sir Henry Green, Colonel Malcolm Green, the late Sir William Mackinnon, Sir Charles Mills, Mr. John Murray, the late Sir Lewis Pelly, the late Sir Herbert Sandford, Sir Gordon Sprigg, and the late Rev. George Stegmann.

To Lady Frere, Miss Catherine Frere, and Miss Georgina Frere my best thanks are due for continual assistance rendered during the progress of the work. With untiring industry, the Miss Freres have devoted the ten years since Sir Bartle's death to collecting and arranging the records of his life. Their systematic arrangement of his letters, and of the other papers and documents, has alone enabled me to grapple with a mass of material which, without such aid, would have been too voluminous and miscellaneous to be comprehended.

My deepest debt of gratitude of all is due to one at whose suggestion I first undertook the task, whose clear and delicate penmanship lightened the mechanical work, whose encouragement and whose judgment—calmer than my own—have helped me almost to the end, and whose approval, could I have won it, I looked forward to as my highest and most coveted recompense.

PARK CORNER, HECKFIELD,
December, 1894.

CONTENTS OF VOL. I.

CHAPTER I.

BIRTH AND EDUCATION.

	PAGE
Birth—Parentage—Childhood at Clydach—School-days at Bath—Haileybury—Departure for India—Malta—Egypt—Red Sea—Arrival at Bombay	1

CHAPTER II.

LIFE IN THE DECCAN.

Bombay—Traditions of Mountstuart Elphinstone's rule—Frere assistant to Mr. Goldsmid—Appointed Assistant Revenue Commissioner—Mr. Lionel Ashburner's and Sir T. Gore Browne's reminiscences—Richard Frere—Occupation of Afghanistan—Death of Richard Frere	17
--	----

CHAPTER III.

THE ANNEXATION OF SATTARA.

Sir George Arthur Governor of Bombay—Frere appointed his private secretary—His marriage—Goes to England for two years—Returns to Bombay and is made Assistant Commissioner in the Customs Department—Appointed Resident at Sattara—Death of the Raja—Sattara annexed—Frere made Commissioner	42
---	----

CHAPTER IV.

SIND.

	PAGE
The annexation of Sind—Napier and Outram—Frere made Commissioner in Sind—Ali Morad—Natural features of the country—Its backward condition—Kurrachee harbour—Lord Dalhousie—Personal and departmental responsibility—Kurrachee and Kotree railway—Roads and bridges—Speed-money—Postage stamps—Dâk bungalows—Kurrachee Fair—Canals—Sindee language—Letters to his children ...	77

CHAPTER V.

THE WARDENS OF THE MARCHES.

Frere's person and character—His cold-weather tours—Sir H. Green's and Sir F. Goldsmid's reminiscences—Shet Naomul—John Jacob—Jacobabad—Jacob's frontier system—The Sind Horse	129
---	-----

CHAPTER VI.

THE MUTINY.

On sick leave to England—Returns to Sind—Is met by news of outbreak of Mutiny—His prompt action—Despatches troops to Punjab—Lieutenant G. B. Tyrwhitt—The camel-dawk—Native newspapers—The treaty with Dost Mahomed—Question of abandoning Peshawur—Outbreaks at Hyderabad, Kurrachee, and Shikarpur	170
---	-----

CHAPTER VII.

THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER.

General exhaustion—Malcolm Green's campaign—Macauley's campaign—The Khan of Kelat—Quetta—Major H. Green's expedition against the Murrees—Recovery of Major Clibborn's guns—Death of Jacob	224
--	-----

CHAPTER VIII.

RECONSTRUCTION.

Religious teaching in Government schools—Principles of administration—Proportion and organization of native army—Nuggur Parkur—Frere appointed to the Supreme Council at Calcutta—Leaves Sind	255
--	-----

CONTENTS. xi

CHAPTER IX.

CALCUTTA.

	PAGE
Settles at Calcutta—Mr. Mackinnon—Indian finance—Mr. James Wilson—Income-tax—Sir C. Trevelyan—Death of Wilson—Sir Robert Napier—Military Finance Commission—The Arms Bill—Constitution of Legislative Council ...	293

CHAPTER X.

LORD CANNING'S POLICY.

India best governed in India—The Nil Durpan incident—Wuzzeeree Campaign—The annexations—The Adoption Despatch—Star of India—Lord Canning leaves India—Frere appointed Governor of Bombay	349
---	-----

CHAPTER XI.

BOMBAY.

Arrival at Bombay—Cotton cultivation and transport—Road-making—Friction with Calcutta Public Works Department—Conference of Engineers at Poona—Death of Lord Elgin—Sir John Lawrence Governor-General—Frere's Minute on Frontier Policy—Relations of Lawrence and Frere—Kattywar—Income-tax repealed—Minute on Local Taxation	393
--	-----

CHAPTER XII.

THE REBUILDING OF BOMBAY.

Sanitary state of Bombay—Census—The City rebuilt—Its defences—The <i>Thule</i> —Railways—Education—Address to Deccan Sirdars	459
---	-----

CHAPTER XIII.

MASTERLY INACTIVITY.

The two Pensioners of the Bramshill Lodges—Relations with Affghanistan—Death of Dost Mahomed—Letter to Sir John Kaye—The Wahabees—Colonel Pelly in the Persian Gulf—Sir W. Merewether at Aden	481
--	-----

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

	PAGE
SIR BARTLE FRERE. <i>From a portrait by Sir G. Reid, P.R.S.A.</i> <i>Frontispiece</i>	
MEHEMET ALI PLAYING BILLIARDS ...	} ... <i>To face</i> 48
SCENE IN THE CABIN OF THE S.S. "DELTA" } <i>Sketches by Sir B. Frere</i>	
SUMMERHOUSE IN THE PALACE GARDENS }	} BIJAPUR " 55
SAT MANJLI } <i>Sketches by Sir B. Frere</i>	
GUN ON THE OOPUREE BROOJ }	} BIJAPUR " 56
THE MULOOK JUFT } <i>Sketches by Sir B. Frere</i>	
MAP OF COAST, SOUTH OF BOMBAY " 76	
GENERAL MAP OF SIND " 128	
MAIN BAZAAR, HYDERABAD, FROM THE GATEWAY OF THE FORT. <i>Sketch by Sir B. Frere</i> " 208	
WRESSIL LODGE, WIMBLEDON. <i>From a sketch by Miss C. F. Frere</i> 223	
MAP OF SIND, SHOWING AFFGHANISTAN AND BELOO- CHISTAN BOUNDARIES <i>To face</i> 240	
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, PARELL, BOMBAY 394	
MAP OF SIND AND N.W. FRONTIER <i>At End.</i>	
GENERAL MAP OF INDIA "	