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## Notes.

## CAPT. GRINDLAY.

I FIND no account of Robert Melville Grindlay in any of the dictionaries. Lowndes, by Bohn, simply gives the title of the splendid book he published. Allibone knows nothing about him, nor is he in Mr. Boase's 'Modern English Biography.' I do not even find his name in such a special book as 'Men whom India has Known,' by J. J. Higginbotham, 1874, or the latest work (reviewed at 10 S. v. 59), a 'Dictionary of Indian Biography,' by C. E. Buckland, 1906. Yet Grindlay seems to be worthy of a place in the roll of those who have done some good work. He is remarkable for three things: First, for having been an accomplished artist, though a soldier by profession. Secondly, for having published a magnificent work, containing views in Bombay and Ceylon, many of the pictures by himself giving representations of places, events, and things long since gone or altered. Thirdly, for living to the very respectable age of ninety-one.

Besides this, he was founder of the London banking firm which still bears his name, but in which there has been no Grindlay since he retired.

It appears from the records of the Honourable East India Company, which are preserved at the India Office, that he was the son of John and Elizabeth Grindlay, being born 23 October, and christened at St. Mary Le Bone (then a village near London) on 17 November, 1786. His father was a merchant in the City. The son was nominated cadet for the H.E.I.C.S. by E. Parry, Esq., in 1802, and sailed for India in the Prince of Wales in 1803. He became lieutenant in 1804; captain Bombay Native Infantry, 22 December, 1817; and retired on half-pay (5s. a day) 20 December, 1820.

On 20 July, 1821, he married Maria Susannah, elder daughter of John William Commerell, of Hanwell Park, Middlesex, and Strood Park, Sussex. She died at Nice, and was buried there in 1862.\*

Grindlay's knowledge of India made him think that an agency to help those who went there and those who returned would be useful in London. Accordingly, in the 'Post Office Directory' for 1831 we find his name as an "agent for passengers to India, 16, Cornhill." The agency was a success, and the firm he founded now has a European and colonial in addition to its Indian reputation.

In 1838 the firm became Grindlay, Christian & Matthews, and in that year they describe themselves as "East India army agents." In 1844 the names are reduced to the shorter "Grindlay & Co.," though the name of Matthews has kept its place as one of the firm to the present day. There have generally been several partners. The common-sense, business signature of "Grindlay & Co." instead of the three names will be apparent to those who have to sign their names thousands of times.

Grindlay published a most beautifully illustrated book, which was issued in parts. In every copy that I have seen the covers and titles to the parts have been destroyed by the binder, according to the ancient (and even modern) custom. The title of this book is:—

"Scenery, Costumes, and Architecture, chiefly on the Western side of India, by Capt. Robert Melville Grindlay, member of the Royal Asiatic Society and the Society of Arts. London, Ackermann, 1826-30." In folio, without pagination.

He says the subjects collected in this work form a small part of the drawings made by him while in the service of the H.E.I.C., and that "the various appointments which

\* See 'The Genealogy of the Family of Bosanquet,' by Louisa Clara (Bosanquet) Meyer, 1877. Jacob Bosanquet was a director of the H.E.I.C.

he successively held, afforded him peculiar advantages in collecting materials."

I have lately looked at the copy at the British Museum, and the two copies at the India Office, all coloured, and looking as brilliant, I imagine, as when painted. The first illustration by Grindlay is from a picture he made in 1811. There are others by various Royal Academicians, as Daniell, Westall, Clarkson Stanfield, and D. Roberts.

Allibone attributes to him "Sculptures in the Cave Temples of Ellora, 1830, folio." I have not been able to find this book mentioned in any catalogue, so I am rather puzzled to know how Allibone got his information.

In the present day it seems astonishing that it should have been necessary to move heaven and earth to get a regular steam-boat service to India. That it was, however, necessary to do so is shown by the following pamphlet, which ran through three editions the same year. The price was half-a-crown :

"A View of the Present State of the Question as to Steam Communication with India: with a map and an appendix containing the petitions to Parliament. By Capt. Melville Grindlay, East India army agent, and London agent to the Steam Committees of Calcutta and Madras. Third edition. London, Smith, Elder & Co., 1837." With an octavo map of India.

"Grindlay & Co.'s Overland Circular: Hints for Travellers to India. London, Smith, Elder & Co., 1847," is attributed to Capt. Grindlay in 'The English Catalogue,' but this is not inconsistent with the title of the pamphlet, which says it is "compiled by Grindlay & Co." An article could without difficulty be written on the vast changes that have taken place since its publication. The 'Overland Circular' has a list of Grindlay & Co.'s subscribers (22 pages), dated 1 June, 1847; and on p. 5 *The Home News for India* is mentioned, though it did not appear until six months after!

There was also published a "Map of India, arranged under the direction of Capt. R. M. Grindlay by J. Wyld, 1842." Another edition, 1852.

Capt. Grindlay retired (for a second time!) in or about 1846, when he was fifty, and took up his permanent residence at Nice for the sake of his health. I have lately seen a photo portrait of him when about eighty.

A pension was given him by the firm, which was no doubt settled on the supposition that he would reach the usual three score years and ten; but he paid his firm out by living, as I have already said, to the great age of ninety-one. He died at Nice on 9 December, 1877.

#### GRINDLAY & CO.'S 'HOME NEWS.'

Quietly, without notice, but with the regret of many, this publication, which existed during nearly the whole of the momentous reign of Queen Victoria, ceased to appear (see 10 S. v. 71).

On 7 January, 1847, the firm issued the first number of *The Home News: a Summary of European Intelligence for India and the Colonies*. To No. 2 the following was added: "with which is incorporated *The London Mail*." An admirably expressed exposition of the reasons for its appearing is given on p. 24 of the first number.

For fifty years this weekly newspaper fulfilled the mission for which it was intended in a straightforward, honest, and business-like manner. The editors, of course under the instructions of the firm, were scrupulous not to exaggerate, and were non-political so far as possible.

For several years it was a loss, but eventually paid its way. It did not cease on account of age, as the last number was better than the first, but because the objects for which it was started were supplied in other and quicker ways. In the valedictory address, written with the spirit of frankness which characterized this publication throughout its career, the subscribers were told that *The Home News* had done its work, and that what with ocean cables, penny postage, quick transit, and fresh enterprises, it was no longer required; so with No. 2370, on 30 December, 1898, it ceased.

It is evident from their announcement in the first number that the firm then fulfilled most of the objects for which "Civil Service Stores" are now carried on. They supplied everything required for an Indian outfit, which, in fact, means all that an Englishman requires in the general way, and more than that, as he does not require many things in England that he needs if he goes to India.

From the announcement in the last number it appears that the firm now give their chief attention to the banking and looking after the comfort of their particular customers. They can well look back with pride on the straightforward way in which their paper was carried on for so many years.

RALPH THOMAS.

#### SHAKESPEARE'S PLAYS: FACTS AND FIGURES.

The following notes are compiled from the text of the Cambridge (1891-3) and Globe (1900) editions.

There are 37 plays.