

**PORTRAITS OF MEN OF
EMINENCE IN LITERATURE,
SCIENCE, AND ART, WITH
BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIRS. VOL.
II**

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Portraits of Men of Eminence in Literature, Science, and Art, with Biographical Memoirs. Vol. II by Lovell Reeve & Ernest Edwards

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LOVELL REEVE & ERNEST EDWARDS

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MEN OF EMINENCE

IN LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

COPIES
TO BE KEPT

A

PORTRAITS
OF
MEN OF EMINENCE

IN LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART,

WITH

Biographical Memoirs.

THE PHOTOGRAPHS FROM LIFE, BY ERNEST EDWARDS, B.A.

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SIR JAMES RANALD MARTIN, C.B., F.R.S.

THIS distinguished surgeon, now Examining Physician to the Secretary of State for India in Council, was born about the year 1800, in the Isle of Skye, his father being the Rev. Donald Martin, his mother a sister of Adjutant-General Sir John Macdonald, G.C.B. Having acquired a knowledge of mathematics, geology, and physical geography at the Royal Academy of Inverness, under Professors Nimmo and Tullock, he resolved to enter the military service in a medical capacity. With this object he became, in 1813, a pupil at St. George's Hospital, London, and devoting himself with earnestness to the study of his profession under the advantages then enjoyed by that institution of the services of Sir Everard Home, Sir Charles Bell, Wilson, and Brodie, he, at the expiration of three years, passed his examination at the College of Surgeons, and in 1817 embarked for India. On his arrival at Calcutta, Mr. Martin passed quickly through the usual probationary course, and having joined the 17th and 59th Regiments, he was nominated Assistant Garrison Surgeon of Fort William. Here he greatly distinguished himself by the prompt skill and humanity which he displayed during an outbreak of malignant cholera, and in 1819 he was appointed First Assistant-Surgeon of the General Hospital of Calcutta. It was at this period that the subject of our memoir commenced that important study of the diseases of Europeans in India which led to the peculiar knowledge of tropical maladies upon which his reputation is mainly based.

In 1821, the Marquis of Hastings, then Governor-General of India, observing the rising talents of James Ranald Martin, and appreciating his unwearied devotion to the interests of the service, appointed him to the medical charge of his Body Guard, and, not

SIR JAMES KANALD MARTIN.

unfrequently in opposition to the Medical Board of Bengal, he carried into active operation several extensive sanitary improvements. In consequence of ailing health, Mr. Martin retired on sick leave to the Island of Mauritius; he returned, however, to his military duties in 1823, when he was summoned to Hyderabad to attend professionally on Sir C. Metcalfe, then dangerously ill; and now commenced a friendship with that illustrious Governor which continued uninterruptedly during the remainder of his life. Mr. Martin was summoned in 1826 to Barrackpore to attend Lord Amherst, and accepted the appointment of First Assistant-Surgeon to the General Presidency; he shortly, however, returned to Calcutta, and settling himself in that city in regular medical practice, he filled successively the offices of Surgeon to the Governor-General, Lord William Bentinck, of Presidency-Surgeon of Calcutta, and of Surgeon to the Native Hospital of Calcutta.

Mr. Martin continued to devote himself to the study of the diseases of both Europeans and natives, especially those of the Delta Ganges or Bengal proper, and drew up for the consideration of the Government a Report of the result of his investigations. In 1832, Mr. Martin originated and performed the now universally adopted operation for the radical cure of hydrocele by retained injection of diluted tincture of iodine. In 1835, he devoted his energies more especially to the subject of medical topography and statistics, and the practical results deduced from this elaborate inquiry being formally submitted to the Governor-General and to Sir C. Metcalfe, it was pronounced to be the most important sanitary measure for India that had been hitherto propounded. The author's suggestions for sanitary reform embraced an area larger than the whole of Europe, and they affected the well-being of more than a hundred millions of souls. Mr. Martin also submitted to the Government, about this time, a comprehensive plan for the cure and prevention of diseases prevailing more especially in Calcutta and its surrounding districts, which led to a Commission of Inquiry into the medical topography and health history of the locality, and to a series of legislative enactments by the Supreme Council of India, which have by their practical issue done a large amount of good, not only to the natives, but also to the resident Europeans. In 1838, Mr. Martin originated the great Fever Hospital of Calcutta, and shortly after, his health failing, he availed himself of the offer of the Governor of Bengal to retire for a time to his

residence at Barrackpore. He still occupied himself, however, in preparing a report on the relative and comparative salubrity of the line of the Valley of Irawaddy, and of that across the Araccan Mountains, in Upper Ava.

In January, 1840, Mr. Martin, to the warmly expressed regret of the Governors of the Native Hospital, left the scene of his twenty-two years' labours—a long period for official service in India—and returned to England. A large meeting of Mr. Martin's patients and friends was convened in the Town Hall of Calcutta, and a subscription was entered into for the presentation of a piece of plate, as a mark of the high esteem they entertained of his personal character and professional services. Sir Charles Metcalfe, writing to him soon after his arrival in London said, in reference to this testimonial: "The just compliment paid to you on quitting Calcutta must have been very gratifying. There is in such an indication of kind feeling, something that touches the heart, and produces some of the most pleasing sensations that we can experience, mixed, however, with pain at parting from those who show such friendship:" while Dr. Farr, of the Registrar-General's Office, alluding to the scientific and economic results of Mr. Martin's services, said, "I look upon the well-conducted sanitary reform commenced in Bengal as one of the most important undertakings of the age in India, useful to science and to England, and creditable to Sir J. R. Martin, with whom it originated."

In 1843, Mr. Martin was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, and has since acted with distinction as a Consulting Surgeon; not, however, to the neglect of his studies in sanitary science, for which he had been famous in India. He was appointed by the Government of Sir Robert Peel a member of the Royal Commission for inquiring into the sanitary condition of large towns in England and Wales, and served two years on this Commission, having in the meantime drawn up a Report, of which a large number were printed by the Government for general circulation. Subsequently, at the suggestion of the Duke of Buccleuch, he directed his attention to the sanitary condition of the French capital, and having proceeded to Paris for that purpose, he collected a number of valuable reports. In 1845, Mr. Martin assisted in publishing the well-known work of Dr. Robert Jackson, 'On the Formation, Discipline, and Economy of Armies,' and in the same year he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. In 1848, he