

**JOURNAL OF A
VISIT TO INDIA AND
THE EAST**

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Journal of a Visit to India and the East by John McClelland & James M'Clelland

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JOHN MCCLELLAND & JAMES M'CLELLAND

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THE EAST**

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TO
INDIA AND THE EAST.

BY AN OLD TRAVELLER.

*"Cease to persuade, my loving Proteus!
I rather would entreat thy company
To see the wonders of the world abroad,
Than living dully, sluggardised at home,
Wear out thy life with shapeless idleness."*

Printed for Private Circulation.

GLASGOW:
JAMES MACLEHOSE, ST. VINCENT STREET,
Publisher to the University.
1877.

Enscribed

TO MY DAUGHTERS,

MRS. JOHN ROBINSON ADAMS

AND

MRS. JAMES HENRY GEORGE HILL,

AND TO MY FRIEND,

MRS. CHARLES FREDERICK MURRAY.

PREFATORY NOTE.

THE Journal now placed in the hands of my friends was chiefly supplied from the ample notes made on the voyage out and home, and while resident in and travelling through India.

Both eyes and ears were kept open for all matters which seemed to be new, interesting, or instructive regarding that wonderful country and its no less wonderful people.

I am particularly indebted to a publication entitled "The Prince's Guide Book," by Mr. Mackay of Delhi, which was compiled and issued on the eve of the Royal Visit. To that gentleman my thanks are due for some of the interesting notes regarding the native chiefs, a narration of which is contained in the Journal.

JAMES McCLELLAND.

32 PEMBRIDGE SQUARE,
LONDON.

JOURNAL OF A VISIT TO INDIA ,
AND THE EAST.

LETTER I.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

In beginning a long voyage one is always apt to look back with regret, parting with those we leave behind, but the feeling soon wears away with excitement of starting, with a large band of passengers on board bound for various points, all animated with the brightest prospects of enjoyment on board, and in the hope, on arriving at their promised destination, to receive the kind salutes of friends and acquaintances. It is sometimes otherwise than akin to those feelings, when an old campaigner takes, like myself, to another of those voyages which have brought on him, sometimes health and comfort, sometimes uneasy feelings at the remembrance of those left behind, and sometimes poignant regrets at the loss of friends in absence.

Thinking that it may help to repress these, I wish to disburden myself of my impressions of the coming voyage, by addressing a few letters to some kind imaginary correspondents, who will favour me by listening to a narrative, better done through letters familiarly written, than by a stuck-up or stilted account of what one saw, heard, and imagined during voyages and residence in strange countries. I hope you will, therefore, allow me to consider you for the time, one of my imaginary correspondents, and thereby help to aid me, in more readily and easily narrating many curious incidents of travel, and partial accounts of countries, through which only a limited number of European travellers have penetrated.

14th.—Our good ship was the *Venetia*, of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Company, commanded by Captain Babot.

There were a full complement of passengers at starting, and, among others, the Duke of Connaught, and General Somerset, the new commandant of the military at Gibraltar.

It takes a little time on a voyage of this kind for the passengers to settle down, but should the weather prove fine all goes well in a short time. On this occasion we got in order the second day. The first was ominous. The cook had lost his head. The dinner was hardly served at all. One end of the table got soup, when the other was at pudding, and

the whole was uncooked and disagreeable; a sad beginning for a long voyage. We bore all, however, with equanimity. Some of the Duke's suite proposed to throw the cook overboard; others to discharge him at Gibraltar; but others gave him the benefit of the doubt as to his ability, and let him have another trial. The young scion of royalty took the whole in good humour, and thus ended our first banquet with many jokes at our misfortune.

15th.—We were now in more auspicious condition, but the weather being cold and lowering above head, many, especially ladies, kept to their cabins. The people on board are mostly, if not altogether, of an English type, and quite unlike those found on the Atlantic steamers. One sees at a glance they are military or civilian; not many of them are very practised travellers, and all seem bent on special missions. These youths so full of life and intelligence are the selected candidates for the Civil Service in India. They have undergone an immense work, and examinations of the most severe character. There are six of them, and all are more or less talented, so that, being what is called "off the irons," they are as full of fun as crickets on a hearth-stone.

The military youths are of quite another type—gentlemanly, good-looking, full of joking, larking, and fun of all characters. The Prince joined gently in it, with a good-humoured intelligence, never losing his own or others' self-respect. The General and his family

are accorded great attention and respect, being their chief on land; but like all of us passengers, alike on a *quasi* equality, the commander of the ship being for the time the authority to whom all must look and obey. For the voyage he takes the character of a despot; but as most of them are educated, and often conciliatory and gentlemanly, the despotism is only of a very mild character.

I am fortunate in having good men in the cabin. It is large and airy, with four sleeping berths.

16th.—My companions belong to the church, to the army, and to the civilian classes—all of them well-educated men, and who apparently have seen a good deal of the world. This makes me very comfortable, and each of us give in a little in our cramped accommodation. One of the secrets of life at sea is to be kindly disposed to all around you, and especially to your cabin mates. We are for the time being “*compagnons du voyage*,” and will be so for a month to come, in a floating palace, with luxurious accommodation, living, and comforts unknown to the denizens who travelled a century ago, all surrounded by the ocean, and dependent on the vigilance, watchfulness, and assiduity of more than a hundred seamen, engineers, stokers, Lascars, &c.—and held at work with a firm and sometimes stern command. Passengers in making a first voyage are sometimes apt to think of something they might advise, and give hints to the captain on the management of his ship. Let any