appeared in 1827. It was translated into Swedish by Count Frolich, and reviewed by Dr. Southwood Walter in The Edinburgh Review, by De Quincey in the London Magazine, and by Captain Basil Hall (as it is believed) in the Edinburgh Review. Rowland Hill finished school teaching about 1830, and took an active part in improving Gibb’s Wakefield’s scheme for colonizing South Australia, holding the post of secretary to the association from 1832–36. It was founded on three novel principles; it was to consist of a country not to be a State Church in the colony, and convicts were not to be transported thither. In 1832 he published a pamphlet on Home Colonies, describing the principles and objects of the association, and the Irish deserters at its worst he repudiated a part of it, under the title of Home Colonies for Ireland, proposing that societies should be formed in every village for furnishing poor families with small plots of ground, and for organizing a system of charitable relief for the deserving poor. It was in 1835 that he first conceived the idea of reducing the rate of postage, and in 1837 that he celebrated a pamphlet on Post Office Reforms, which was chiefly instrumental in preparing the popular mind for the adoption of the new system. Penny postage came into existence on January 10, 1840. At that time there were but 3,000 post offices for 11,000 parishes. A letter sent from London to Edinburgh cost 1s. 4d., and if it contained an enclosure the price was doubled; and under the inquisitiveness of the system of allowing the postmaster country by country the chief post of the Post Office fell on the middle class and the poor. In 1838, seventy-six millions of letters passed through the post; when Sir Rowland Hill was in office in 1834, the number had risen to 424 millions, and last year the letters and newspapers posted in England amounted to 1,478 millions. Under the influence of the adverse opinion of the House of Commons, the conduct of the Government was keenly resented by the public, and a general subscription to reward his labours realised the handsome sum of £10,000. On the return to power in 1840 of the Whig Ministry, he was pensioned in retirement in the Post Office. In 1840 he was a K.C.B., and when Sir Rowland Hill retired from public life in 1864, the Treasury issued a minute, fully acknowledging the success of his plans, and awarding to him his full salary of £2,000 a year, while Parliament bestowed on him the substantial grant of £20,000. Sir Rowland Hill died full of years and honours. The University of Oxford, to the great gratification of his family, on June 8, 1864, conferred on him the honorary degree of D.C.L.; and only a few weeks ago he received at his own hands a new coat of arms as a Civis of the City of London bearing the freedom of the City. During Sir Rowland’s enforced withdrawal from public life in the years 1843–1846, he was connected with the management of the Brighton Railway, and it was mainly through his influence as chairman of the board that the express trains and Sunday excursions were introduced.

W. P. COURTNEY.

The death is announced, at the age of seventy-four, of Mr. Thomas Longman, the last of the original partners in the firm of publishers, J. & J. Longman, at the head of the house of Longman, of Parnall’s Wharf, on Saturday, the 30th ult. Mr. Longman was the eldest son of the late Mr. Thomas Norton Longman, of Hampstead. He was for many years an active partner in the great house in the “How,” but in 1859 purchased the property at Parnall’s Wharf, from which period he took a less active part in the business.

BERNADINO ZENDRINI, who translated Haine’s Buch der Lieder so admirably into Italian, has died recently at Palermo. He was born at Spermaco, where his father was a physician. In his thirteenth year he went to Switzerland for his education, studied philology at the University of Zurich, and soon after his return to his native land received a professorship at Pisa. He was afterwards called to the Chair of Comparative Philology at the University of Palermo.

COMMEMORATIVE ISIDORO LA LUMIN died at Palermo on the 23rd ult. He was Superintendent of the State Archives, and the author of many historical publications, among which was one on the subject of the rule of the House of Savoy in Sicily.

SELECTED BOOKS.

General Literature.


Theology.


History.


Physical Science.


Philology, etc.

BUBLER, O. Angliche Sprachen m. Glossar. München: Kaiser, 1. 30 M. DOLLIN, K. Ph. der Schriftsprache auf dem anderen Wort, Berlin: Kohlhammer, 1. M.

MARTINS, K. Der Brief im Grundsatz auf seinen Gebrauch. Berlin: Mayer & Müller, 1. M.


PERRET, W. Die verschiedenen Handschriften der hebräisch—ulbrisch—kirchliche, Bibel in Britisch. 2. 34. 1. Hitz, Gottha: Furthius, 1. 50 M.


WEIL, J. De la Justice et des loisarabes. Berlín: Kohlhammer, 1. M.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MEANING OF “GOORER.”

Trieste: Aug. 26, 1879.

Kindly permit me to add my mite to “The Meaning of Goorer,” or rather “Gorigo.” The letter No. 2 (the Academy, August 16) hits the origin of the word. It is simply Kachho, a word very well known in India. Kaacho or Pakka or Pakka = ripe, Hindi and Hindustani. Europeans Kangli (= Jungle men) and Kachchhadi would express the same idea—a raw mango. Once upon a time when the English people were in the habit of sending with their letters a little seal in the writer’s seal. I have one scrap in Arabic on which this form of fastening and sealing is perfectly preserved, the seal bearing the name

Gypsy immigration into Greece during the tenth and eleventh centuries was far too extensive to pass by one line of road. —RICHARD F. BURTON.

MORE PAPYRI FROM THE FAYYUM.

X. Sept. 3, 1879.

A few months ago my friend Prof. H. Brugsch-Bey obtained from the Fayyum a number of papyri in Greek, Pahlabi, and Arabic. I saw them in his possession, and he kindly promised me permission to transcribe them. I translate any that interested me, but desired first to mount them on cardboard to prevent deterioration. For this purpose he placed them in the hands of a bookbinder living in the Mokhe, but, unfortunately, he found the process was a very slow one. It occurred to me that part of Cairo, and all these invaluable MSS. were destroyed, with the exception of a few scraps that the professor had not sent to be mounted.

One of these, in very neat characters, is the heading of an official order from a Minister of Finance in Egypt between A.D. 775 and 785, or A.H. 135 and 136.

“In the name of God the all-merciful, the all-compassionate.

This is the order of Masa, son of . . . Agent of Al-Mahdy, Commander of the Faithful (may his life be prolonged), for the taxes of Egypt and all.

Another is more perfect, but from the entire absence of diacritical points it is not possible to be sure of the reading of certain words, which might be pointed in several different ways. In the translation I insert notes of interrogation after these doubtful words.

In the name of God the all-merciful, the all-compassionate.

To Khalid son of Yezid, from Sawadh son of al-Harithe, peace be upon you, I praise you God besides whom there is no other God. After coming to Alexandria, I beseech you, my judge, that all your compliments, may God give you health. I have been to the village [?] and I found that there had gone out to them live Nabataeans, people of Damascus and merchants, and they turned out their live Nabataeans. But the merchants [?] about whom you wrote, by God they are not merchants [?] or [?] mercantile] of Al-Pashà, paying tribute [?]. Look, therefore, at the writings in your possession, for it would be painful to me to write you anything contrary to the truth. . . .

In the name of God the all-merciful, the all-compassionate.

Within the last few days I have obtained yet another parcel of papyri from the same district, among which are, I believe, some still further novelties. They consist of letters in Greek (several of them quite intact) and Cufic, with fragments in those languages, and in Pahlabi, Hebrew, and Samaritan, and a remarkable drawing of a sort of dragon painted green and confronting a man carrying a red shield, but sadly wormenst.

I believe that Hebrew and Samaritan on papyri are as novel as was the Pahlavi character on that material when I first wrote to you on the subject about two years ago.

One Arabic letter, of which I have only the last few lines, is dated Saturday, the fifth night of the month of Jumâl–Al-Âkherah of the year 196.