



STRAITS SETTLEMENTS ASSOCIATION.

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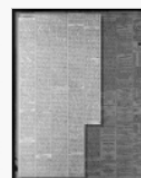
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STRAITS SETTLEMENTS ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL DINNER IN LONDON. FULL REPORT OF THE SPEECHES.

FOR the following full report of the annual Straits Settlements dinner, held at the Whitehall Rooms, London, on Dec. 8th, we are indebted to the *L. & O. Express*. There was a large and representative company present, and the chair was occupied by Lieut.-General the Hon. Sir Andrew Clarke, R.E., G.C.M.G., C.B., C.I.E. The Chairman was supported on his right by H.R.H. the Crown Prince of Siam, and on his left by Sir Robert G. W. Herbert, G.C.B., the other gentlemen present being Sir Hugh Low, G.C.M.G., Sir Thomas Sutherland, G.C.M.G., LL.D., Sir John Glover, Major M. A. Cameron, R.E., C.M.G., Mr. E. W. Birch, C.M.G., Sir James L. Mackay, K.C.I.E., Mr. J. Howard Gwyther, Mr. Jasper Young, Mr. William Adamson, C.M.G., (chairman, Straits Settlements Association), Sir Cecil Clementi-Smith, G.C.M.G., Mr. C. P. Lucas, Mr. F. Verney, Sir Spenser St. John, G. C. M. G., Colonel M. C. Brackenbury, R. E., Mr. G. W. Johnson, Sir Ewen Cameron, K. C. M. G., Mr. Patrick Manson, M. D., C. M. G., Mr. T. Irvine Rowell, M. D., C. M. G., Rev. P. Clementi-Smith, Colonel A. C. Hansard, Mr. G. Lavino, K. N. L., Colonel S. Dunlop, C. M. G., Colonel D. G. Anderson, Rev. G. Reith, Captain C. H. H. Nugent, R.E., Dato Abdul Rahman, C.M.G., Mr. Justice Jackson, Q.C., Dr. J. Leask, Captain H. Action Blake, Captain C. E. Eady; Messrs. Henry Dean, W. G. Gulland, G. A. Witt, C. D. Braun, O. Sietcken, G. D. A. McCunn, E. Anderson, V. H. S. Charlwood, E. W. Cooley, Robert Ballantyne, E. C. Potter, T. J. West, Lewis Fraser, R. R. W. Oram, S. W. Gray, Charles Wishart, R. W. Bell, Joseph Heim, N. Dalrymple, F. Coghill Jackson, H. Tunnicliffe, G. Bruce-Webster, H. W. Wood, H. A. McPherson, Thomas Cuthbertson, A. McCall, P. W. Anchincloss, F. R. Kendall, H. W. Uloth, Victor Sergel, F. Hiltermann, Theodor Leiditz, F. A. Marshall, R. S. Gundry, J. Henderson, T. Sargent, William McKerrow, K. Kirchberger, E. E. Steele, M. Behr, H. C. Zacharias, H. R. Preston, Kenrick B. Murray, James Robertson, N. B. Watson, A. C. Read, Charles Stringer, J. C. Sanderson, F. C. Bishop, C. Inchbald, J. Y. Kennedy, A. C. Padday, H. J. D. Padday James Miller, Francis Worsley, F. R. C. Worsley, P. Macfadyen, E. Dickens, John Anderson, J. L. Ogilvy, A. Currie, A. A. Swan, W. Willes Douglas, E. Joseph, J. R. Cuthbertson, J. Y. Meckleham, F. Morris, Graham Paterson, Arthur Ashmore, H. Melvill Simons, C. R. Scott, James McGeorge, S. C. Bristowe, Cosmo G. Paterson, James Muir, E. Wood, J. A. Anderson, D. C. Boulger, John Fraser, W. M. Fraser, D. Forbes, W. A. Main, J. D. Wilson, Noel Trotter, H. Hunter, Robert Yeats, R. G. Watson, E. W. S. Morren, A. S. Murray, C. W. Conington, S. R. Carr, J. Paton Ker, G. J. Mansfield, Stephen Smith, John Adamson, E. E. Everett, R. T. Peake, Cree Maitland, A. B. Stephens, Howard, Robert Wilson, William Wright, and S. Gilfillan. The following were unable to be present at the dinner:—The Right Hon. the Earl of Selborne; the Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, M.P.; the

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PENANG-BANGKOK TELEGRAPH.

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Right Hon. Gerald Balfour, M.P.; Admiral of the Fleet the Hon. Sir H. Keppel, G. C. B.; Sir W. A. Baillie-Hamilton, K. C. M. G., C. B.; Sir M. F. Ommamney, K. C. M. G.; His Excellency the Siamese Minister; the Right Hon. Viscount Kintford, P. C., G. C. M. G.; Admiral the Hon. Sir E. R. Fremantle, G. C. B.; Lieut.-General Sir Charles Warren, G. C. M. G.; Major-General Sir R. Ardagh, K. C. I. E.; Admiral Sir G. O. Willes, G. C. B.; Mr. W. H. Read, C. M. G.; Admiral Sir Charles F. Hotham, K. C. B.; Mr. G. S. Murray; Col. Sir George S. Clarke, K. C. M. G.; and Mr. J. Paton Ker.

The Chairman announced that Sir Frank Swettenham, K. C. M. G., was unable to be present through indisposition. He also stated that messages had been received from the Sultan of Johore, and Sir Henry McCallum, the present Governor of Newfoundland and an old friend of the Association.

THE LOYAL TOAST.

The Chairman, in submitting the toast of "The Queen," said the past year had been one of surprise and pleasure to the British Empire. Most of those whom he was addressing that evening had visited many lands, and had seen our flag flying from port to port, practically girdling the world. To them, this universal sentiment did not create a feeling of surprise, but it was an object of great gratification. Many causes had been assigned for the recent marvellous growth of the patriotic and Imperial sentiment. Might he draw their attention, as an old colonist, and as an old servant of the public, to the true cause of the emotion the Empire now felt? Would he tread too far on delicate ground when he said, it was due to those magnetic influences of imagination and sympathy existing between the Queen and her people—imagination to realise under sunshine and shadow the feelings of her people, of sympathy to make this power felt? (Hear, hear.) It was this power that had attracted and welded the units of our great dominions; it was not, he thought, necessary for him to say anything further, but ask them to drink the health of the great, venerated, and beneficent Queen of Great Britain, Empress of India. (Applause.)

The toast was drunk with great enthusiasm.

THE IMPERIAL FORCES.

Sir Thomas Sutherland, who was received with cheers, in proposing the next toast, that of the "Imperial Forces," said it was one which he was sure would be received with acclamation. He would only be expressing the general feeling when he said that it was their duty and privilege that evening to pay honour to the defensive forces of the country. He had no doubt they would note that the phraseology of the toast had been altered from that of "the Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces," and for a very clear and obvious reason they toasted on that occasion, not only the defensive forces of Great Britain, but also the soldiers and sailors of Greater Britain. (Applause.) That Greater Britain extended from end to end of the habitable globe. On the west, it stretched from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and on the east from the shores of India to the shores of New Zealand, and it was from these spheres that brave men came and fought alongside of our own soldiers against an enemy as brave, as capable, and as resourceful as any we have ever had to contend with. He thought it behoved them in that connection to remember that the assistance which we obtained from our Colonies in the war, was assistance which was not sought for by this country, but was given voluntarily by the Colonies themselves. They had reason to know that in that respect, the Colony of Singapore and the Native States were by no means the last to offer their services. He might say that those services were voluntarily given by our self-governing Colonies out of devotion to our common Empire, and

out of recognition of the justice of the cause for which we were compelled to draw the sword. This spirit of loyalty and devotion on the part of the Colonies, showed us what might happen if our Empire at any time was in danger, and he did not believe there was a town or village throughout the length and breadth of the Empire, which would not send its quota of men and material to the assistance of the Mother Country. (Applause.) There was one matter of great importance to which he called their attention in connection with the campaign, in which they had been engaged. Whatever mistakes had

been made in strategy—and he feared those mistakes were not a few—whatever miscalculations were made in regard to underrating the strength and resource of our opponents—and he feared those miscalculations were not a few—yet the spirit of the soldier remained the same, and our officers were ready and willing to undertake every task, and to follow any leader, and to achieve everything which their duty called them to do. (Applause.) They were not going to record the incidents of the great campaign, which was not yet ended. Those incidents were too fresh in their recollection, and were many of them which came home to them as they read of what happened in that great struggle, and which brought tears to their eyes. He read the other day of a gallant young fellow on Spion Kop, who, with a certainty of death before his eyes, would insist on cheering on his men and adjusting the sights of the rifles until the last moment when he was shot down. (Applause.) He had had a conversation with a naval officer, who was at the battle on the Tugela, where Sir Redvers Buller strained his resources and the loyalty of his soldiers to such an extent, and he declared that nothing has been so wonderful in connection with this war, as the manner in which the soldiers followed their leaders despite repulse after repulse, as determined as were their leaders to succour Ladysmith and the garrison there. (Renewed cheers.) We had received many painful, important, and serious lessons from this war, and he hoped and trusted the authorities would take them to heart and profit by them. (Hear, hear.) He thought that great reform was called for in our military system, and that the professional training of our officers left much to be desired; and that the work of the individual soldier, would count in the future for a great deal more than it had in the past. We had a great deal to learn and to undo, and he thought it necessary that every young man in this country, should learn how to shoot straight. (Hear, hear.) He personally would be glad if, without conscription in this country, an obligation were laid upon the Municipalities and County Councils with regard to rifle clubs, and to subsidise them from the municipal rates. It was impossible to look back without great sorrow, and especially without great sympathy, for the friends of those who had fallen in the campaign. There were also many bright spots which stood out clear and comforting. There was, for example, the splendid generalship of Lord Roberts, always so fair and so successful, and he might also say humane. (Hear, hear.) The work done by the naval guns on the Tugela showed once more how excellent the co-operation could be between the two branches of our services. There was the successful defence of Ladysmith and Kimberley, and above all that of Mafeking. They were events which had added glory and lustre to the British arms. He had great pleasure in associating with that toast, the name of a distinguished officer, well known to those present who had lived in the Colony of Singapore, that of Colonel Dunlop—(hear, hear)—a loyal servant to the Colony in which he was stationed for so long a time. In concluding the remarks with which he had proposed the toast, he would risk being accused of showing something like an egotistical spirit, by alluding to the mercantile marine which had recently played no insignificant part. (Hear, hear.) They had succeeded in demonstrating—not for the first time by any means—the great power England possessed in her merchant shipping. (Applause.) In conclusion, he begged to propose the toast of “The Imperial Forces, coupled with the health of Colonel Dunlop.” (Loud applause.)

The toast having been duly honoured, Colonel S. Dunlop, C.M.G., who was loudly applauded, in reply, thanked the company most sincerely on behalf of the Imperial Forces for the way in which they had accepted the toast. He felt proud that he was present that evening to reply on behalf of the Imperial Forces. He was glad the old toast had disappeared, and he, as a soldier, was glad to welcome the Colonials, the Volunteers, and the Yeomanry, and to call them “comrades.” (Applause.) They fought nobly with the bravest of our soldiers, and he was sure they felt as he did when he read that noble Army order of Lord Roberts in which, in no stinted measure, he honoured the Imperial Force under his command. (Renewed applause.) He once previously had the pleasure of replying to that

toast at a Straits dinner, but he then had no such feeling as he had on this occasion for the brave soldiers of which our Army was composed. Whilst thanking them for the honour they had bestowed on the Army, he would ask them, if possible, to sink politics in the questions which yet remained to be solved. (Hear, hear.) He would ask them, as representatives of the people, to give time to those in whose hands the reorganisation was placed—(hear, hear)—and he would ask them to believe that they had at the head of affairs men who were capable of undertaking any reorganisation that was required. (Applause.) The man who had carried through the campaign in South Africa deserved all honour, and he was the right man to be at the head of the reorganisation of the Army. (Applause.) He knew well that not a few thought they could do that as well as Lord Roberts could, but still he (the speaker) was old enough to stick by an old "gunner"—(hear, hear)—and he believed the result would be, if they trusted him, that our Army would become such as it had never been before. (Applause.)

THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS AND FEDERATED STATES.

Sir John Glover, who, in rising, was greeted with applause, in submitting the toast of "The Straits Settlements and Federated States," said he deemed it a very high honour to be called upon to propose what he supposed was considered the chief toast of the evening. They had descended from the magnificent heights of the Imperial Forces—(laughter)—and the patriotic feelings had been admirably touched by the chairman. Now they had climbed down to business—(laughter)—but he had, however, no statistics of the Straits Settlements to present. They all knew, he said, far more about the subject than he did, and if he had had an opportunity of reading statistics after the excellent after-dinner speeches they had heard, he should ask the permission of the shareholders present to courteously take the report as read. (Laughter.) He would make a bold leap

and come at once to Sir Andrew Clarke's connection with the Colony after 1874, when that gentleman distinguished himself and did immeasurable service to the Straits Settlements by taking affairs in hand. (Applause.) He did not think he was over-rating, in any degree, the services Sir Andrew rendered to the Colony when he said that, whereas there was but little trade in the Malay States before he went there, from the time of his advent into that part of Her Majesty's dominions the Straits Settlements went ahead, and the States of the Malay Peninsula went ahead, and he (Sir Andrew) had the immense happiness of succeeding in initiating a policy which brought the western side of the Malay Peninsula under our rule. (Applause.) From that time, British roads and railways began to be thought of, Courts of Justice established, and all the essentials in fact of civilised life and civilised government were developed. (Hear, hear.) Singapore had become the chief coaling station in the East, and, without doubt, was going to play an enormous part in European intercourse in the Far East. With regard to the Straits Settlements, they were not merely places where a few coloured people of not much importance resided; they had become important States, and were thriving wonderfully. What was the explanation of this success? There were no Custom-houses there. What would this world be if we could get the latter all abolished?—(laughter and applause)—as well as vexatious interference when you arrive with your luggage. There were no duties and no customs and no taxes upon anything with the exception of spirits and opium. (Applause.) Several of the ports were free ports—free in the truest and fullest sense of the term. Was it remarkable that under these conditions trade should be successful? He (the speaker) belonged to the Statistical Society, and in the course of his researches it had been found that the value of exports into this country was greater than what was sent out, and to ensure its prosperity there must be some invisible exports which struck the balance. As he was thinking about the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States, it came into his mind suddenly that the explanation of the invisible exports was that of brains—(hear, hear)—Scotch brains—(laughter and applause)—and they had sent out a great many men who had been splendidly educated in the best business traditions of

Europe. (Applause.) We sent them there, and with the absence of Custom-houses was it surprising that with Scotch brains and free ports these results had been achieved? (Laughter and applause.) There was, however, associated with Scotch brains something more, and that was Scotch character. (Hear, hear.) The best brains without honesty, sobriety, and reliability did not do very much. His gratification at proposing the toast, was enhanced by the circumstance that these admirable results had been accomplished peacefully, proving in this case, as Englishmen had proved the world over, that theirs are not always conquests attended with misery and sorrow. (Applause.) He coupled with the toast the name of Mr. Charles Stringer.

The toast was enthusiastically honoured.

Mr. Charles Stringer, who was received with cheers, in responding, said the question which naturally arose in one's mind was, of what did the prosperity of a colony mainly consist? Could a colony be described as prosperous if its funds were ample, its trade good, and its climate a healthy one? All this would contribute to the prosperity of any of the possessions of Great Britain, but the one thing to make a British colony prosperous was the happiness of the people who lived there. (Hear, hear.) He took it that the conditions he had mentioned had in their case been fulfilled, and helped to bring about a prosperity of which they were all very proud. The revenue of the Colony was sufficient, but not more than sufficient, for their requirements. The people were happy and contented on the whole, he thought, and one great proof of that was that the population of the Colony went on rapidly increasing year by year. (Laughter.) That showed that the Government, not only in the Colony but in the Federated Malay States, had been administered with moderation, justice, prudence, and tact. But when he spoke of the Government, he was not alluding only to the Colonial Government. The municipalities played a most important part in the welfare of the people. They were their only representative bodies, and they had the responsibility of carrying out the various sanitary and other works required for the regulation of the large towns. He regretted that in the Settlement of Penang, Mr. Kennedy's health had broken down so that he had been unable to continue his work. The prosperity of the Colony was, in the first place, due to Sir Stamford Raffles and the excellent laws he laid down for their guidance. (Applause.) He should have earned the gratitude not only of British subjects in the Far East, but of the whole British Empire. Next to Sir Stamford Raffles, undoubtedly came the gallant chairman, Sir Andrew Clarke. (Loud cheers.) He was speaking in the presence of persons who, perhaps knew, more about those matters than he did, but he felt certain that they would agree with him when he said that the Colony would never have attained its present position, and the Federated Malay States would not have reached their present state of prosperity if the Pangkore Treaty had not been signed, which was entirely owing to the efforts of Sir Andrew Clarke. (Hear, hear and applause.) Then, amongst other able Governors, one of whom—Sir Cecil Smith—was at the table to-night, he ought also to mention the name of Sir Frederick Weld. He (Sir Frederick) did much during the time he was Governor to cement the Native States with the Colony, and during his term of office the State of Pahang was added to the other Malay States. They had in the Town Hall at Singapore, a collection of portraits of men who had done much to build up the Colony. It was an admirable thing that the younger members of the Colony during the entertainments were able to look up and see the portraits of the men to whom so much was due. Since the last dinner of the Straits Settlements Association they had to grieve for the loss of Sir Charles Mitchell and Mr. Shelford. With regard to Sir C. Mitchell, cut off as he was in the prime of life and in the full vigour of his intellect, his loss was severely felt in the Colony, and all would admit he was a Governor who fulfilled in the most conscientious manner all the duties of his high office. The death of Mr. Shelford would be mourned by them for a long time, and it had caused a blank in the history of the Colony which it would indeed be difficult to fill. As to the portraits, he hoped they would shortly be able to add to the collection those of

Sir Andrew Clarke and Sir Frederick Weld, also that of the worthy President of the Straits Settlements Association, Mr. Adamson—(applause)—who, as a member of the Legislative Council, did a great deal for the Colony, and

who, since his return to this country, had done a great deal more. He (Mr. Adamson) had worked with the ability and tact which generally ensured success in the matters he had taken up. (Applause.) Before concluding he would like to mention the loss by the Association of Mr. James Guthrie and Mr. Leveson, and thought they ought to acknowledge on that occasion the great services they had rendered to the Straits Settlements Association. (Applause.)

THE GUESTS.

The Chairman who was greeted with loud and continuous cheers on rising to propose the health of "The Guests," said Mr. Adamson and himself had hoped there was a possibility of the present Colonial Secretary, Mr. Chamberlain, being present that evening as a guest. (Applause.) That gentleman had expressed himself as being in perfect sympathy with the object and work of the Association. At the time he said he hoped to be present at the banquet, he was hoping to have had a longer holiday which he had richly deserved, and he informed him (the chairman) that he would gladly have attended the annual dinner. He had, however, expressed his intention of being with them next year. (Applause.) They had the privilege that evening of having as their guest the Crown Prince of Siam. (Applause.) He urged them to remember that he was our nearest neighbour. Between the sea and his territory were our own, and the boundary of his country marched with ours. Bound up, therefore, with us were the prosperity, progress, and happiness of his country. It was now more than a quarter of a century since he (the speaker) had the honour of making the acquaintance of the King of Siam, then in the flush of his noble and generous youth. The promise of that youth had been kept by the illustrious father of their guest that night. (Applause.) Therefore, when he proposed the health of the guests, he hoped the toast was sufficient guarantee to them to believe that the course that had been taken by the present King of Siam, would be continued with the blessing of God when their guest in the ordinary course of events came to the Throne. He would now call their attention to a matter but little known with regard to his own action in 1874, with reference to the Native States and Malay Peninsula. He found the Native States and the Malay Peninsula a charnel house and a chaos, and had it not been for the fruitful assistance, support and co-operation of Sir Robert Herbert, it was possible that the charnel house and chaos would have continued to this moment. He would ask them to drink the health of Sir Robert Herbert. (Applause.) He (the speaker) knew that in his position a cold official minute would have quashed his aspiration and hopes at once. (Laughter.) That was the first public opportunity he had had of making known the support given him by Sir Robert Herbert to his policy. (Hear, hear.) The Chairman concluded by making special allusion to the presence of Sir Thomas Sutherland, Sir Hugh Low, Sir Cecil Clementi-Smith, Sir Spenser St. John, Sir James L. Mackay, Dr. Patrick Manson, Mr. Lucas, Mr. Birch, Colonel Brackenbury, and Mr. D. C. Boulger, the historian of Sir Stamford Raffles.

The toast was heartily honoured.

The Crown Prince of Siam, who was received with cheers, in responding for the guests, referred to the important geographical position of Singapore. By seizing Singapore, he believed that England had secured the most important position in the East. He would assure them that other countries were all very envious, and they all wondered why they had not thought of that before. (Laughter.) They did not guess that the growth of Singapore, not to mention the other parts of the Straits Settlements, would be so remarkable as it had been. When he was looking at an old map, published in 1820 or 1821, he saw that the most important thing in Singapore was a flagstaff. (Laughter.) Around this flagstaff were just a few huts; but when they looked at the map now, there was a considerable difference. He did not know what had happened to that flagstaff, but he hoped it had been kept somewhere. (Laughter.) It was wonderful to think that that flagstaff had developed into a fine town with an important

shipping trade represented by about thirteen million tons; he was not quite certain whether he was right exactly (Laughter.) The Straits Settlements were, of course, the next-door neighbours of Siam, and they had always been taught to live at peace with their neighbours, but they all knew how difficult that was. (Laughter.) The more they knew about their neighbours' habits, the more easily could they find a cause for a quarrel. His country and the Straits Settlements had so far been the best of neighbours, and what was the reason of that? He attributed it to the fact that Singapore had been very fortunate in having a most wonderful succession of very able Governors. (Applause.) Commencing with Sir Stamford Raffles, His Royal Highness said, in his opinion, he was not sufficiently appreciated in his time. He had come across a story of Sir Stamford to the effect that a certain despatch had been sent to England, and the answer was anxiously awaited, but he (Sir Stamford) waited in vain. In due course, Sir Stamford Raffles returned home and found his despatch in a pigeon-hole unopened. (Laughter.) This was very unfair treatment to such a great man. They in Siam owed much to Sir Stamford Raffles. Before he went out there merchants were constantly attacked by pirates, who roamed the sea and made Singapore their headquarters. (Laughter.) Sir Stamford Raffles put this down with a strong hand, with the result that the trade of Siam had flourished more than it had ever done before. If he were to go through a list of the administrators of Singapore and the Straits Settlements, he would be there all night, but he might say of all the Governors they had reason to remember every one of them, for their friendship and their tact in dealing with the people. Chief amongst those Governors was their chairman that evening, Sir Andrew Clarke—(loud cheers)—whose name was very familiar in Siam.

Sir Robert Herbert, after making some complimentary allusions to the speech of His Royal Highness, referred to the remarks Sir Andrew Clarke had made with reference to his own former services. He remarked that Sir Andrew's language was that of a friend who was too appreciative of a friend. He could not imagine to himself the portrait Sir Andrew had sketched of him. With regard to Siam and the Straits Settlements, he hoped they would remain on the same friendly and cordial terms. He alluded regretfully to the absence of that distinguished administrator Sir Frank Swettenham, and said that it was almost impossible for anyone to imagine how he had brought the Federated Malay States into their present remarkable position. The reports he had submitted to Her Majesty's Government were almost like a romance. There was, however, nothing in them to show who was the person responsible for that remarkable achievement. The speaker alluded to the State of Johore and, with reference

to the labours of Sir Andrew Clarke, said that not half enough had been said. He had been behind the scenes and knew the real value of those services. They had felt for some years that those services had not been recognised by the authorities in the manner they merited. The public should be permitted to know that Sir Andrew's work had been of a very high order. (Hear, hear.) It gave them peculiar satisfaction that evening to see him presiding over them, and they hoped to see him for many years to come in the same position. (Cheers.)

THE CHAIRMAN.

Mr. Jasper Young, who was received with applause, in proposing the toast of the "Chairman," said there was not a person acquainted with Singapore who did not look upon Sir Andrew Clarke as a good friend. (Applause.) He remembered being present twenty-seven years ago at a farewell banquet given to Sir Andrew previous to his sailing to Singapore, to assume the Government there. He (Sir Andrew) afterwards found out what might be made of the Malay States if placed under British rule, and they all knew the really wonderful result of his efforts. (Applause.) Had anyone at that farewell banquet, with the existing state of affairs in the Malay Peninsula, ventured to predict what changes were to take place there, he would not for one moment have been believed. Sir Andrew Clarke, like his predecessor, Sir Stamford Raffles, when he opened the port of Singapore showed

an object-lesson to the world which would never be forgotten. (Applause.) Sir Andrew, in like manner, had made an object-lesson of the native races he had ruled, and it was to be regretted that their neighbours had not profited by those lessons as they ought to have done. He hoped the time was coming when they would do so, and the rulers of Singapore would for ever live as the benefactors of the race. He begged to propose the health of "Sir Andrew Clarke." (Cheers.)

The toast was received with loud cheers from all parts of the room, followed by musical honours.

The Chairman, on rising to respond, was again received with cheers. He said he thanked them for the kind things they had said of him that evening. He was in conversation with a dear old friend of his the other day, and he repeated to him (Sir Andrew) what he said to him early in 1874 in talking over the difficulties in front of him, "I said to him," continued Sir Andrew, "give me the key by which I can deal with those difficulties, and open the door to a peaceful settlement. My friend, who knew well what the Malay was—W. H. Read (cheers)—gave me that key, and it was at his suggestion I acted. What I want rather to say to-night, and I do not so much want to appeal to you as to the outside public—the great public of this country, who really know but too little of their colonies and what their brothers and sons are doing for them in all parts of the world—(hear, hear)—I had hoped we might have been able to announce to-night, and perhaps to have had present here your new Governor. Do not fancy that it is merely because I happened to have been the Governor of the Straits that I attach anything like undue importance to that position, but at this moment with China awakened to a fresh career, and the importance of Eastern questions and International questions looming in the future, I hold that the man who is to be sent to Singapore as its Governor must have the key of the position. (Cheers.) After referring to Singapore as being of the utmost importance as a commercial centre in the East, Sir Andrew said that in times of war it was a strategical centre from which any International arrangements in the case of anything like a great crisis must proceed, and it was probable that the man who was sent there would have to deal with an immense amount of work, and would have to be in constant communication not only with the high officials of Great Britain accredited to the East, but with the generals, admirals, ambassadors of foreign countries, who must all pass through Singapore, and be more or less the guests for a time of the Governor. A great many important questions must pass through his hands, and therefore he hoped he was not impertinent or presumptive in touching thus upon this subject, because he only spoke from experience. (Cheers.) If age was worth anything to them, and surely age gave experience, he would say to the authorities of this country, "Do send to Singapore the most able man and the best man." (Cheers.) That, he hoped, would be the outcome of their meeting that night. In conclusion, he sincerely thanked them for placing him in the chair that evening. (Renewed cheers.)

The proceedings were then brought to a conclusion.

Related Articles



BANQUET TO H. E. THE GOVERNOR.

The Straits Times 8 October 1903

BANQUET TO H. E. THE GOVERNOR.
REPRESENTATIVE OATHERINO AT THE

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