

THE LATE RAJAH BROOKE.

(From the "Liverpool Mail," April 5, 1873.)

NEARLY FIVE YEARS have passed away since the lamented decease of this grand Pioneer of Civilisation, this bravest of heroes, this especial benefactor to British Shipping and Commerce, as well as to Mankind at large, who died at a peaceful English home, sorely stricken with paralysis. Yet up to this hour no adequate Memorial of SIR JAMES BROOKE has been raised. No durable record of National gratitude and Imperial appreciation has been attempted. What Sir STAMFORD RAFFLES achieved for British interests in Java, that and very much more Sir JAMES BROOKE marvellously accomplished in the neighbouring and half-civilized island of Borneo, the largest island in the world excepting only Australia. Few or no Englishmen have ever before been so enterprising, so sagacious, so self-sacrificing as the young Indian Cadet who, originally a soldier, won the thanks of the Government, for he had gallantly fought in the Burmese war, and got grievously wounded. He finally quitted India, from a desire to travel, and in the hope of regaining health and strength. He visited Europe as well as Asia in his own yacht with a trained crew, having for some eight years pondered on his grand conception of carrying civilization to the Eastern Archipelago. And, single-handed, he achieved the task to a great extent. Nay more. Zealously supported at length, by our naval authorities in command in those seas, Admiral Sir THOMAS COCHRANE and Captains KEPPEL and MUNDY particularly, Sir JAMES BROOKE—formally and officially appointed confidential agent to the Queen of England in Borneo—courageously took to task the treacherous and murderous Chief ruler of Borneo, the Sultan—the scheming ally and secret supporter of the principal Pirate leaders. He inspired a wholesome fear on the part of the Sultan and his evil counsellors, by calling them to account for the massacre of 1846, and taking possession of the city of Brune, the Borneese capital. Sultan and pirate chiefs were both brought to their senses. Pirate hordes were broken up. And the ruler of Borneo, and all

the petty rulers under him, were taught thenceforth to show respect for the power and dignity of Great Britain—for British subjects and British commerce.

But the most striking feature in Sir JAMES BROOKE'S adventurous career was his marvellous influence over the semi-civilized tribes of Borneo. He beneficently ruled Sarawak and its surrounding districts, solely by moral force—by kindness and firmness judiciously tempered. He systematically began with Civilization as the precursor and foundation of Christianity. A full Biography of the Rajah has yet to be written, and we learn that such a work is contemplated. Meanwhile his efforts on behalf of our common Christianity are chronicled in the volume for 1867 of *Mission Life, or the Emigrant and the Heathen* (Rivingtons), edited by Rev. J. J. Halcombe.

We would cordially invite both local and general attention to a movement begun in London, in order to perpetuate Sir JAMES BROOKE'S fragrant memory, and in a most useful and characteristic form—the origination of the "RAJA BROOKE MEMORIAL PENSION FUND."

All who knew Sir JAMES BROOKE knew well he was one of Nature's Noblemen,—habitually mindful of suffering humanity. Miss GERTRUDE JACOB has made an excellent beginning. That noble public charity the "National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic"—whose wide usefulness annually increases by more than a thousand new cases—has created "a Pension Fund for the Incurable," as its Circular states, "to mitigate the pangs of those to whom the Physicians can speak no word of comfort or of hope." The Circular intimates that Forty Annual Pensions have been founded already; and that the Board are desirous to obtain an increase of funds at least "sufficient to permit Two Elections annually." This proposed Pension, while in itself appropriate, will not, we think, prevent, but help to lead up to another and more public monument, to wit, a National Memorial to perpetuate the eminent services rendered, alike to his Country and Countrymen, and to Heathen Mankind, by one of the most memorable Christian gentlemen and heroic Englishmen of all this Nineteenth Century.

MEMORIAL TO THE LATE
SIR JAMES BROOKE, K. C. B.,
Raja of Sarawak.

A SUBSCRIPTION has been set on foot to found a perpetual Life Pension in honour of the late Sir James Brooke, and to bear his name, in connection with the pension fund of the National Hospital for the Paralysed and the Epileptic, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, London.

The hope that sooner or later the public mind will be stirred to do justice to his memory is not given up; but it is sought meanwhile to raise a memorial humble in itself yet in keeping with the spirit of his life, and a means of help to those who—struck down by paralysis—suffer as he suffered.

£500 will found a pension of £20 per annum.

Particulars will gladly be given by

MISS GERTRUDE L. JACOB,
12, Queensborough Terrace,
London, W.,

to whom P.O. orders (payable at Bayswater Road) may be sent; or contributions to the *Raja Brooke Memorial Pension Fund* (orders payable at Southampton Row, W.C.) may be forwarded to the Secretary at the Hospital, B. B. Rawlings Esq.

SUBSCRIBERS.

The Baroness Burdett Coutts	£25 0 0
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Captain S. Swinton Jacob	5 0 0
Rev. Edgar Jacob	5 0 0
Two Sisters	10 0 0
Mrs. Brown (1, Stratton Street, W.)	5 0 0
Dean of Lichfield	1 1 0
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Mrs. James White	1 0 0

£181 2 0

ADDITIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	S	D
Broudet <i>tip</i>	131	2	0
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M ^{rs} W. H. Castleman	2	0	0
M ^{rs} Jacob (Guemoy)	2	0	0
By Mrs Zoulin (add ^d)	1	0	0