

"There is no failure, except ceasing to try"

1925 Class "C."

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Robert Clive, the ^{2nd} Founder of our Indian Empire, was a man of vast skill and marvellous energy. He forged this link in the Chain of Empire with the sword, and successfully established British ascendancy against French influence.

In his early campaigns, (after he had obtained an ensign's commission at Fort St. David) in such exploits as the Siege of Arcot, Clive protected the English from French aggression.

Then, in the year 1756, came the horrifying news of the cruel imprisonment of a hundred and forty-three persons in the Black Hole of Calcutta by the ruling Nawab, Saraj-ud-Dowlah. In conjunction with Admiral Watson, commander of the fleet, Clive executed a skilful manœuvre and captured Calcutta.

After this dramatic incident the British public suddenly realised, through Clive's action, that the war in India was no trivial Company affair, but a serious national conflict.

Succeeding the capture of Calcutta, the rascally Nawab did not desire peace. On the contrary he intrigued with the French, and Clive saw that a crisis had arisen. He therefore entered into

negotiations with Mir Jaffier, a general in the hostile Nawab's army, and several other of his affected subjects.

He also trained the native Sepoys in British martial methods and unconquerable British discipline. This excellent inspiration met with increasing success, and the highest pinnacle of Clive's career was the Battle of Plassey in 1757. In this memorable battle, Clive's comparatively small army of nine hundred Europeans and fifteen hundred Sepoys, utterly defeated Dowlah's host of fifty-five thousand men, by sheer British pluck and iron discipline.

Being not only a valiant soldier but an administrator of natural skill, Clive set about to purify the whole system of government. As a result the gallant reformer raised against himself a host of enemies among the East India Company's officials, who fiercely opposed Clive's reforms. In the end these opponents accomplished Clive's destruction. Whilst broken in health by opium eating his relentless antagonists disgraced him in Parliament, so that he ended his own life in 1774. If such an energetic and skilful

general as Clive had never lived, Duplex. Clive's French rival might have added India to the possessions of France. Clive also taught the native Hindoos to honour and respect a true British spirit, instead of despising it as they had begun to do before Clive, fortunately interfered.

Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, though not as renowned as the picturesque Clive, was successful in adding another spot of red to the map of the British Empire. His greatest achievement was the founding of Singapore, which is now one of our most important coaling stations for ocean liners en route for the East.

In the year 1817, when Raffles was appointed governor of Bencoolen on the island of Sumatra, he effected vigorous reforms in the administration as Clive had attempted to do in India. He also made great attempts to educate and civilise the natives.

Raffles appointed British residents in the native courts and framed regulations for their conduct. The native Sultan of Johjokarta evidently disliked this, for Raffles successfully checked an attempt of the opposing Sultan to expel all Europeans from Java.

Then came his greatest work. In 1819 he was sent to Singapore

where he founded a new settlement and established a settled mode of government.

If such an intelligent person as Sir S. Raffles had never been created, Singapore might have fallen to the lot of some foreign country. Thus our foreign trade and transport might have been diminished and our Oriental steamship navigation route would have been considerably hindered. Moreover, if it had not been for Raffles, the native administration would have continued to be impure, and British rated as incapable of presiding over an enormous area, a not unappreciable part of the British Empire.

Next comes David Livingstone, who unlike Clive, who conquered with the sword, conquered with kind words and actions. Livingstone was the greatest of all African explorers. "Onward, ever Onward" was his motto which he lived up to in all things. He was a missionary of Scottish birth, a man of strong character, who treated the black men, not only as equals but almost as brothers.

He established his first missionary station at Bechuana, seven hundred miles from the Cape where he first landed in 1844, but his restless nature would not permit him to linger there. His

first expedition of exploration of Africa, was in 1849, when he explored Lake Ngami and the Zambezi River.

Even now his impatient spirit led him farther on. In 1853, accompanied by some of his faithful followers, the persevering explorer travelled westward, again on a journey of exploration. Three years after, David Livingstone reached Zuilimane, having crossed Africa from sea to sea.

He attempted and accomplished this, partly in order to establish a route across Africa from the West to the East coast, and partly for his accompanying tribesmen to establish and maintain a definite trade route from their own country to the coast.

Meanwhile, Africa lay beneath a dark, terrible menace. Week after week, innocent natives were being transported to the foreign plantations as slaves. Men were parted for ever from their wives, and helpless, harmless children were snatched from their vainly pleading mothers, to be taken to eternal slavery by the unscrupulous slave traders.

These heartless creatures had no greater enemy than David Livingstone. The explorer, accompanied by a certain Bishop, established a missionary station in the districts bordering the River Shire. Here the two companions liberated many

bands of slaves that were bound for the coast and for slow, sure death.

Through Livingstone's work we have added to the extent of our Empire, Rhodesia, Kenya Colony, Uganda, Nyasaland and the East African Protectorate.

If these three noble characters had never existed, we should now possess a far smaller empire, and a far smaller influence for good in the world than that which we possess today. Therefore let the names Clive, Sir S Raffles and David Livingstone be eternally honoured and respected by all British subjects, as long as the British Empire exists.