

CHAPTER XXIX SIR CLEMENTS ROBERT MARKHAM, K.C.B.

CLEMENTS ROBERT MARKHAM, second son of the Rev. David F. Markham and Catherine, daughter of Sir William Mordaunt Milner, Bart., of Nunappleton, was born at Stillingfleet on July 20, 1830. He was baptized in the drawing-room at Becca, with his cousin William T. Markham, by Archdeacon Robert Markham, his great-uncle, on September 10.

He was at school at Cheam from 1839 to 1842, and at Westminster from May 26, 1842, to June 1844. On June 28, 1844, he entered the navy as a naval cadet onboard H.M.S. Collingwood, bearing the flag of Rear-Admiral Sir George Seymour on the Pacific station. He visited Madeira, Rio, and the Falkland Islands, the ports of Chile, Peru, Mexico, and California, and the Sandwich and Society Islands, returning home in July 1848. During the following year he served on board H.M.S. Victory at Portsmouth; H.M.S. Bellerophon, Howe, and Vengeance in the Mediterranean ; the Ceylon at Malta ; and H.M. steamer Sidon at Gibraltar and on the coast of Morocco. From April 1849 to April 1850 he served on board H.M.S. Superb at Spithead and Queenstown.

Having volunteered for the Arctic Expedition going out in search of Sir John Franklin, he joined H.M.S. Assistance in April 1850. The Assistance was detained in the ice in Melville Bay for six weeks, and wintered in the pack of Griffith Island. There was an extensive system of sledging in conducting the search, and in the spring travelling he was away for forty days. Returning in October 1851, he passed on board the Excellent, and then left the naval service.

In 1852 and 1853 he was in Peru, studying the geography and the antiquities and language of the Incas, and exploring the head waters of the Madre de Dios. He returned on hearing of the death of his father. In 1854 he became a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. He then printed his father's 'History of the Markham Family' for private circulation.

From July 10, 1854, to September 1, 1858, he was a clerk in the Board of Control, and from 1858 to 1877 in the India Office, being private secretary to Lord Northbrook, August 1, 1861, to May 18, 1863, and assistant secretary in charge of the work connected with the surveys and geography from 1867 to 1877. He retired at the end of 1877.

On April 23, 1857, Clements Markham was married to Minna, daughter of the Rev. James Hamilton Chichester, Rector of Arlington, and niece of Sir Bruce Chichester, Bart., of Arlington Court, co. Devon. They have one child, Mary Louisa, born on October 4, 1859.

In 1859 Clements Markham was entrusted, by the Secretary of State for India, with the enterprise of collecting plants and seeds of the best kinds of quinine-yielding *Chinchona*, and the introduction of their cultivation into British India. He went to Peru to superintend the collections in 1860, and to India to select sites for plantations in 1861, visiting the plantations again in 1866. After thirty years there were millions of trees growing in many flourishing plantations, the febrifuge was manufactured on the spot, and brought within the reach of the poorest people, and a great annual saving

was effected for the Government. For this service Clements Markham received a grant of £3000. In 1866 he visited and reported on the Tuticorin pearl fishery.

In 1867-8 Clements Markham served as geographer to the Abyssinian Expedition during the march to Magdala, for which service he was created a Companion of the Bath on May 19, 1871. From 1863 to 1875 he worked in concert with his old messmate Admiral Sherard Osborn, to obtain the despatch of a Government Arctic Expedition, and at length succeeded in 1875. He went to Greenland in the *Alert*, returning in the *Valorous*.

In 1858 Clements Markham became Secretary of the Hakluyt Society until 1887; and in 1890 he became President of the same Society. He has edited the following works for the Hakluyt Society, with introductions and notes, and translated fifteen of them :

- 1 'Expeditions into the Valley of the Amazons' (1860).
2. 'Embassy of Clavijo to the Court of Timour' (1861).
3. 'Search for El Dorado' (1862). The Introduction.
4. 'Travels of Cieza de Leon', part i. (1864).
5. 'Chronicle of Cieza de Leon', part ii. (1883).
6. 'Narrative of Andagoya' (1865).
7. 'Royal Commentaries of the Incas', vol. i. (1869).
8. 'Royal Commentaries of the Incas', vol. ii. (1871).
9. 'Life of Alonzo de Guzman' (1862).
10. 'Reports on the Discovery of Peru' (1872).
11. 'Rites and Laws of the Incas' (1872).
12. 'Voyages of Sir James Lancaster' (1877).
13. 'The Hawkins Voyages' (1877).
14. 'Acosta's Western Indies', vol. i. (1879).
15. 'Acosta's Western Indies', vol. ii. (1880).
16. 'Baffin's Voyages' (1881).
17. Hues: 'Tractatus de Globis' (1888).
18. 'Journal of Christopher Columbus' (1892), with documents relating to John and Sebastian Cabot, and to Corte Real.
19. 'Letters of Amerigo Vespucci' (1894).
20. 'Voyages of Pedro de Sarmiento' (1895).
21. 'Voyages of Pedro Fernandez de Quiros' (1904), 2 vols.
22. 'Espinosa : Guanches of Teneriffe'.
23. 'Sarmiento : Incas of Peru'.
24. 'Voyages to Magellan's Strait'.
25. 'Cieza de Leon : War of Quito'.

In 1862 he was elected on the Council of the Royal Geographical Society, and for twenty-five years (1863-1888) he was Honorary Secretary. In 1888 he received the founder's gold medal. In 1893 he was elected President of the Royal Geographical Society. In August 1895 he was President of the International Geographical Congress. The French Government presented him with a blue Sèvres tazza.

In 1861 he became a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and was on its Council 1865, 1871, and 1878. In 1867 he was elected a member of the Athenæum Club by the committee. He received the Grand Prix of the Paris Exhibition of 1867; Commendador of the Order of Christ, 1874; Chevalier of the Order of the Rose of Brazil; member of the Imperial Academy of Germany (*Naturæ Curiosorum*) and of the Royal Society of Gottingen; Fellow of the Royal Society, 1873; President of the Geographical Section of the British Association, 1879; and corresponding member of nearly all the geographical societies of Europe and America. He took steps which lead to the renewal of Antarctic enterprise, and despatched Captain Scott's Antarctic Expedition as well as the relief ship. The published works of Clements Markham are:

1. 'Franklin's Footsteps' (1853), Chapman & Hall.
2. 'Cuzco and Lima' (1856), Chapman & Hall, translated into German.
3. 'Travels in Peru and India' (1862), Murray, translated into German.
4. 'Quichua Grammar and Dictionary' (1864), Trübner.
5. 'The Abyssinian Expedition' (1869), Macmillan.
6. 'Life of Lord Fairfax' (1870), Macmillan.
7. 'Ollantay, an Inca Drama' (1871), Trübner.
8. 'History of Persia' (1874), Longman.
9. 'Countess of Chinchon' (1874), Trübner.
10. 'Threshold of the Unknown Region' (1873), four English editions, translated into French.
11. 'Missions to Tibet' (1876), published by order of the Secretary of State for India, two editions.
12. 'Memoir of the Indian Surveys', published by order of the Secretary of State for India, two editions.
13. 'India, Moral and Material Progress Report' (1874), presented to Parliament.
14. 'India, Moral and Material Progress Report' (1875), 2nd edition, presented to Parliament.
15. 'Memoir of Commodore Goodenough' (1875), Griffith, Portsea.
16. 'Peruvian Bark' (1880), Murray.
17. 'Peru' (1880), Sampson Low.
18. 'War between Peru and Chile' (1883), Sampson Low.
19. 'Life of Admiral J. Markham' (1884), Sampson Low.
20. 'The Sea Fathers' (1885), lectures given to Worcester cadets.
21. 'Life of Admiral Fairfax' (1885), Macmillan.
22. 'The Fighting Veres' (1888), published in America.
23. 'Life of John Davis' (1889).
24. 'History of Peru' (1891), translated into Spanish; published at Chicago.
25. 'Life of Columbus' (1892).
26. 'Life of Major Rennell' (1894).
27. 'Paladins of Edwin the Great' (1896), a historical romance.
28. 'Battle of Wakefield', Yorkshire Archæological Journal.
29. 'Battle of Towton', Yorkshire Archæological Journal.
30. 'Prince Edward of Lancaster', Transactions of Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society, vol. xii.
31. 'Display of English Heraldry at Budrum', Proc. Soc. Ant., Feb. 9, 1893.
32. 'Pytheas, the Discoverer of Britain', R.G.S. Journal, June 1892.
33. 'Memoir of Archbishop Markham', Clarendon Press.
34. 'Life of Richard III', (1906), Smith, Elder & Co.

35. 'Life of Edward VI', (1908), Smith, Elder & Co.
36. 'Quichua Dictionary' (1908).
37. 'Translation of Lazarillo de Tormes', Black.
38. 'Life of Sir Leopold McClintock' (1909), Murray.
39. 'Story of Majorca and Minorca' (1908), Smith Elder.
40. 'Letters of Admiral Markham', Navy Record Society.
41. 'The Incas of Peru' (1910), Smith, Elder.
42. 'The Conquest of New Granada' (1912), Smith, Elder.
43. 'Translation of Garcia da Orta' ('Colloquies on the Drugs and Simples of India') (1913), Sotheran.
44. 'Descriptive List of Amazonian Tribes', Anth. Inst.

He wrote numerous papers in the Royal Geographical Society's Journal and Proceedings, including twelve anniversary addresses, four lectures before the Society of Arts, two at the Royal Institution, one article in the *Archæologia* and several in the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries, three for the 'Encyclopædia Britannica', one for 'Chambers's Cyclopædia', two chapters on Peru for Wisnor's 'Narrative and Critical History of America', &c., and the chapters on voyages of discovery in Laird Clowes's 'History of the Navy'. In 1896 Clements Markham received the following letter from the Prime Minister :

20 Arlington Street,
May 17, 1896.

DEAR MR. MARKHAM,

I am very glad to be permitted to inform you that Her Majesty has conferred upon you the Knight Commandership of the Bath in recognition of your great services to geographical science. As one who worked with you in a public office as much (I think) as twenty years ago, I cannot but congratulate myself on being the channel of this communication.

'Believe me,
'Yours very truly,
'SALISBURY'.

Clements Markham Esq., C.B.

On July 5, 1896, Clements Markham was knighted by the Queen at Windsor Castle, and was invested by Her Majesty with the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Bath. Sir Clements and Lady Markham have lived at 21 Eccleston Square from July 1859 to July 1913. There is a water-colour sketch of Clements Markham, aged three, with his brother David and cousin William T. Markham, by Lady Elizabeth Murray; a miniature by Egley when six; a water-colour by T. Richmond, in the uniform of a naval cadet, when nearly fourteen; a crayon by Macdonald as a midshipman, aged nineteen; and another by Sandys when aged twenty-four. A water-colour of Lady Markham as a little girl, by Hayter; which has been engraved.

In May 1897 Colonel Woodthorpe, R.E., C.S.I., painted a portrait of Sir Clements Markham for presentation to the Royal Geographical Society.

In October the Queen sent him her Jubilee medal. In 1898 he was selected as a Royal Commissioner for the 1900 Paris Exhibition. The King of Sweden sent him the insignia of a Commander (1st Class) of the Order of the Pole Star. In July 1898 he was elected President of the Elizabethan Club of old Westminster boys until 1912.

On May 16, 1899, Sir Clements Markham was unanimously elected a Trustee of Dr. Busby's Charity. In October, at Berlin, he resigned the post of President of the International Geographical Congress (1895-9). November 1899, chairman of the Antarctic Executive Committee. On November 14, 1899, he was elected one of the Governing Body of Westminster School; 1899, President of the Vesey Club; 1900, Chairman of the Antarctic Finance Committee to 1910; 1901, of the Antarctic Relief Ship Committee. In March 1903 he delivered three lectures on the Polar Regions at the Royal Institution. He resigned the office of President of the Royal Geographical Society, after serving for twelve years, on May 22, 1905, continuing as Vice-President. In June 1907 he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science at Cambridge, and was appointed by the King of Norway a Commander of the Order of St. Olaf.

In November 1909 he resigned the office of President of the Hakluyt Society, after a service of twenty years as President and fifty-one years on the Council, continuing as Vice-President. On June 11, 1910, the degree of D.Sc. was conferred upon him by the University of Leeds. In October 1910 he published 'The Incas of Peru', and became a Vice-President of the Society For Nautical Research. May 1911, elected permanent Vice-President of the Geographical Club. August 1911, honorary member of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. May 1912, President of the International Congress of Americanists. In 1913 his old Westminster colleagues and friends presented him with his portrait by Mr. George Henry, R.A.

Source: *Markham Memorials...* Being a new edition, with many additions and corrections, of the 'History of the Markham Family,' by the Rev. David F. Markham... Heraldically illustrated by Mabel Markham. London: Spottiswoode & Co., 1913. 2 volumes. Provided by Mr Victor Markham.