

Ali, P.C., Sir Surendranath Banerji, Kt., and the poet Babu Nabin Chandra Sen. Sir Gurudas Banerji has once fittingly remarked,—“The First-year Class of the Presidency College of 1865 was a splendid one containing many very brilliant students, . . . and Mr. Borooah was unquestionably the brightest of this bright band of young students.”

Anundoram stood sixth in the First Class in the F.A. Examination held in December 18, 1866, securing the Duff scholarship in Mathematics, and in January, 1869, he stood third in the First Class in the B.A. Examination of the Calcutta University. Emulating the noble example of the glorious *trio*, Surendranath Banerji, Beharilal Gupta and Ramesh Chandra Dutta, who had left for England a few months ago, Borooah made up his mind to proceed to England, and sat in the competitive examination for the State Scholarship tenable in England. The Syndicate of the Calcutta University in their sitting of the 29th January, 1869, elected Borooah to the scholarship. Besides the state scholarship, Sri Borooah won by open competition the Gilchrist Scholarship as well, and the total value of these stipends amounted to £ 300/- a year.

Borooah proceeded to England in the spring of 1869 with H. Woodrow, M.A., sometime D.P.I. of Bengal, who had taken a kindly interest in this young prodigy from Assam, and had introduced him to Lord Mayo, the then Viceroy and Governor-General of India. Borooah joined one of the Civil Service coaching institutions in London, studied Science in the London University and Law in the Middle Temple. His aptitude for scientific study was so great that Dr. Carpenter, Professor of Zoology in the London University and Principal of the University College, London, once remarked,—“Mr. Borooah was the most inquisitive student that I have ever come across.” Borooah passed the I.C.S. Examination in 1870, was called to the Bar in the subsequent year, and is said to have passed also the B.Sc. Examination of the London University. He stood high in Mathematics in the Civil Service Examination. During his stay in England Borooah contracted intimacy with the late Taraknath Palit, Kt., D.L. (then Sri) and it ceased only with the death of Borooah. It may be noted here that Borooah was the first Assamese graduate, the first Assamese Barrister and the first Assamese Civilian, and that up to the present time no other Assamese, has been successful in the open competition for the I.C.S.

Borooah returned to India in the autumn of 1872, and was appointed Assistant Commissioner of the Sibsagar District in his own province, Assam. After a year of service in Assam, Borooah secured transfer to Bengal where he passed the remaining years of his life. His short stay in Sibsagar was marked by his scholastic habits, and his independence of attitude for which he had occasional misunderstanding with his superiors. His usual dress was the old-fashioned aristocratic *chouga and chapkan* and he used to have a book by his side even in the court which he read in the intervals of his magisterial functions.

Borooah served as an Assistant Magistrate in several places in Bengal; and when after a prolonged agitation, which had as its great patron and supporter, Sir William Hunter, Indian Civilian were first entrusted with the charge of districts, Borooah and R. C. Dutt were eventually District Magistrates and Collectors. And as it is always the case, when Indians are given fair opportunities to prove their mettle they respond magnificently, Borooah and Dutt discharged their duties without any hitch or trouble and thereby paved the path for the Indians in securing the highest responsible posts under the Government.

Borooah did not allow his literary zeal to be damped by the heavy responsibilities of a Magistrate's duties; there issued forth from his pen every year books after books—lexicons, grammars, editions of old Sanskrit texts and compilations from old Sanskrit authors. In 1881, Borooah projected the compilation of a comprehensive Grammar of the Sanskrit Language in twelve volumes of one thousand pages each, and to be able to consult the oriental books and manus-