

The Examiner (London),
Saturday, May 16, 1868

MR JOHN CRAWFURD, the distinguished Oriental scholar and ethnologist, died on Monday night at his residence in Elvaston Place, South Kensington. He was born in the island of Islay, in August, 1783. In 1799 he went to Edinburgh, and studied medicine there for three years. After that he entered the Indian Service, and in 1811 he accompanied Lord Minto in the expedition which resulted in the conquest of Java. His acquaintance with the Malay languages led to his appointment as representative of the British

Government at the Court of one of the native princes, and for nearly six years he filled some of the principal offices of the island. During that time he collected the materials for his 'History of the Indian Archipelago.' Mr Crawford returned to England in 1817, but he went back to India in 1821, and soon after reaching there the first Marquis of Hastings, the Governor-General, sent him on a diplomatic mission to Siam and Cochin China. Between that time and 1827, in which year he finally returned to England, he held several other appointments. In 1828 he published an account of his mission to Siam and Cochin China, and in 1829 another of his mission to Burmah. After this period, long leisure, good health, and an inclination to study and capacity for work enabled him to keep up and perfect his stores of Indian and Eastern information. He was an indefatigable contributor to the press on matters relating to the East, and herein we ourselves shall feel his loss, as he has been for many years a contributor to the columns of the EXAMINER, the pages of which he enriched by his articles on Eastern, Colonial, and other subjects. In 1852 he published a grammar and dictionary of the Malay language, and in 1856 a descriptive dictionary of Malay and the languages of the Philippine Archipelago, works which secured for the author the respect of the philological world. Mr Crawford leaves a son and two daughters to lament his loss.
