

The Aberdeen Journal

Wednesday, June 17, 1868

DEATH OF SIR JAMES BROOKE, K.C.B.—We have to announce the death of Sir James Brooke, K.C.B., Rajah of Sarawak, which took place on Friday, at 7.30 a.m., at his residence, Burrator, Devon, after a lingering illness. The immediate cause of death was another stroke of paralysis, a seizure from which the Rajah had already suffered more than once. Sir James was the only surviving son of the late Mr Thomas Brooke, of Widcombe, an old civil service *employee* of the Hon. East India Company in Bengal. He was born in 1803, and was formerly in the military service of the company on the Bengal establishment, and was severely wounded at Bungpoor in the Burmese war, after which he returned to England for the benefit of his health. Sir James subsequently visited China, and on his return from that country undertook an expedition at his own cost to Borneo, where he assisted the Malay Rajah, Muda Hassan, in suppressing the insurrection. He shortly afterwards became Rajah of Sarawak, and exerted himself in arresting piracy, facilitating European commerce, and introducing some degree of civilization among the Dyak tribes, as well as Christianity among the barbarian community. He was appointed by Her Majesty Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Labuan, when that island was taken possession of by the British Government in December, 1847. He held that office till February, 1856. Sir James was also Commissioner and Consul General to the Sultan and independent chiefs to Borneo. In recognition of his distinguished services he was created in 1848 a Knight Commander of the Civil Division of the Order of the Bath, and in the previous year received the honorary degree of D.C.L. from the University of Oxford.