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Journal of an Embassy from the Governor General of India to the Court of Ava, in the year 1827

After studying medicine at Edinburgh, John Crawfurd (1783–1868) joined the medical service of the East India Company. While posted at Penang, he studied the Malay language and culture and became an expert in Eastern affairs. His talent was recognised by the British Government, which entrusted to him both administrative and diplomatic responsibilities. He was sent as an envoy on many missions, most notably to the Court of Siam (Thailand) where his efforts led to a possibility of improving diplomatic relations between the two countries, troubled since the seventeenth century. In 1827, he was sent on his last diplomatic assignment in the service of the East India Company, to the Court of Ava (then the capital of present-day Myanmar (Burma)). This 1829 work describes his experiences at Ava, and provided a reference source for subsequent missions. The appendix contains several relevant official communiqués.
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IN THE YEAR 1827.
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BY
JOHN CRAWFURD, ESQ., FR. S. FLS. FGS., &c.
LATE ENVOY.

WITH AN APPENDIX,
CONTAINING A DESCRIPTION OF FOSSIL REMAINS,
BY
PROFESSOR BUCKLAND AND MR. CLIFT.

LONDON:
HENRY COLBURN, NEW BURLINGTON STREET.
1829.
TO

HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE THE FOURTH.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY:

I HUMBLY hope that a faithful account of barbarous countries suffering under slavery and superstition may be no unwelcome offering to the Sovereign of the greatest of free nations. In contemplating the unhappy lot of Tyrants, debased and corrupted by the absolute power which they are doomed to exercise, your Majesty may see new reason to be gratified with that constitutional exertion of authority by which you redress the grievances of your subjects, and enlarge the fabric of civil and religious liberty, for the preservation of which the illustrious House of Brunswick was called to the Throne of Great Britain.

May I presume to add that the Dedication of this Work is peculiarly due to Your Majesty, inasmuch as the materials for it were collected in the service of the British Government in India, where a comparison of the condition of the people of the British territories
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DEDICATION.

with that of the subjects of the surrounding States, is sufficient to show the beneficial power of the English Constitution, even in its remote and faint influence; and to awaken sanguine hopes of the blessings which await your Indian subjects, when the benefits of that Constitution shall be fully and directly imparted to them, under your Majesty’s paternal administration.

I have the honour to be,

Sire,

Your Majesty’s faithful Subject,

JOHN CRAWFURD.
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