

service, came to 'The Lee' on three occasions: on the first occasion he dined in the servants' hall; next time he came he dined with the family; and at his third visit, which would be in 1764, when surveying the military works of the Romans in the neighbourhood, he sat at the right hand of the Laird."

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THE EARLY YEARS OF THE ORDNANCE SURVEY. By COL. SIR CHARLES CLOSE, F.R.S. Reprinted from the *Royal Engineers' Journal*. Chatham: Institute of Royal Engineers 1926. 10x6 inches; 158 pages; illustrations and maps. 6s

This book is reprinted from a succession of notes which appeared from time to time in the *Royal Engineers' Journal*. The author has been fortunate in securing information of an uncommon and interesting kind in collections of private letters and papers. Written into the narrative with sympathy and a profound knowledge of the Ordnance Survey, these intimate personal notes give a delightful picture not only of the growth of our national survey but of the characters which have stamped themselves indelibly on method and organization.

Roy, Mudge, Colby, Drummond, Portlock, Reid, and Larcom, all men of rare ability, would have been a formidable band in any society. It is no wonder that the foundations of the Survey were well and truly laid by the combination of their labours.

These personalities have hitherto been somewhat shadowy to most of us soldier-surveyors of to-day. It is then a real privilege to be able to read of the difficulties they overcame, the active part they took in the scientific life of the nation, and the reasons which led them to adopt methods and processes we follow.

The narrative is not, however, confined to the directors and officers of the Survey. The valuable and responsible part played in the early days by those non-commissioned officers who made so many of the field observations of the ground triangulation is given welcome prominence. The history of a recent boundary commission and of our War Surveys shows that the precedent has not been forgotten. A history of the Survey of those days would not be complete without mention of Jesse Ramsden or of Sir George Airy, and they duly appear as humanly and naturally as the rest.

Portraits of Mudge, Drummond, Colby and Portlock, and O'Donovan (to whom the Survey of Ireland owes so much) are given. There is a beautiful extract from a 6-inch of Londonderry, and some other interesting illustrations.

Some day no doubt the history will be carried on, over the great days of Clarke down to the activities of the author of this volume; but it will be fortunate indeed if material of the same personal value is unearthed from the voluminous records of our over-clerical times.

H. S. L. W.