



**DEATH OF MR. PAUL TIDMAN, OF CHISLEHURST.**

It is with the deepest regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. Paul Tidman, C.M.G., of Chislehurst, which sad event occurred at his residence, Fairlight, the Common, on Sunday. The intense feeling of sorrow which has been aroused by the event has found general expression among every class of the inhabitants of Chislehurst. He was one specially qualified by the wide range of his natural gifts for an active part in life, and it adds to the poignancy of the grief occasioned to those who have been associated with him in public and private matters, that he should have been removed from them when the prime of life was barely passed. During his residence in Chislehurst Mr. Tidman had won the respect of all. His nature combined a high-minded courtesy to those from whom he differed in opinion, with a frank expression of his own views. He interested himself warmly in local matters which bore upon the welfare of his fellow men, and as he was accustomed to devote himself with great earnestness of purpose to whatever question he took in hand, his public utterances carried with them the weight of conviction. He was a valued member of the Chislehurst Parochial Committee, and paid great attention to all questions of public health. He will be particularly remembered for his close connection with the movement for the preservation of the Chislehurst and St. Paul's Cray Commons. He gave the movement his active support from the first, and when a Board of Conservators was established by Act of Parliament some three years ago, he was elected the first chairman. In that capacity it fell to his lot to superintend the working of the new Authority controlling the Commons, and to preside at the monthly meetings of the Board. It was his constant endeavour to maintain the Commons in rustic beauty, and to prevent any diminution of their space or picturesque appearance. He, however, found it necessary to relinquish the duties, as his medical adviser forbade his exposing himself to the dampness of autumn and winter nights, and his resignation was sent to the Board last autumn, when the new Act of Parliament united St. Paul's Cray and Chislehurst Commons under one Board of management. His fellow members of the Board were unwilling to accept the resignation, and through the winter deputy chairmen have been appointed for the various meetings. Barely a year ago he engaged with his customary thoroughness in a movement to afford relief to unemployed workmen in Chislehurst. A requisition had been signed by nearly 60 resident labourers in the village asking for help, and Mr. Tidman, in conjunction with Mr. Patteson Nickalls, for many years his neighbour and intimate friend, set himself energetically to find some remedy. A fund was liberally subscribed to among the residents of Chislehurst and temporary work was provided in the repair of a road, while the advantages of emigrating and the readiest means of doing so were explained to the men by Mr. Tidman. As a result a party was assisted out to Canada, and recent news from its members in Manitoba, Ontario, and other parts of the Dominion warrant the belief that the experiment was successful. Mr. Tidman was a powerful speaker and his utterances were always listened to with interest by his hearers. In politics he was a Liberal, but on the Home Rule Question took the Unionist side. Previously, in the 1885 election, he was a most energetic worker and speaker in the Liberal cause, and rendered the utmost assistance to Mr. P. Nickalls, then a candidate for the Sevenoaks Division of West Kent, also appearing on the political platform at Sidcup and Eltham, though ill-health in a great measure prevented him from taking the prominent part for which he was so well suited.

As has been already said, Mr. Tidman had for some time past been advised to stay within doors as much as possible, especially since the serious illness of many weeks' duration last winter. Three weeks ago, however, he ventured to go up to town on a raw foggy morning, and contracted an acute attack of bronchitis, to the effects of which he succumbed on Sunday morning. He was attended throughout his illness by Dr. Wade. Enquiries as to his condition in the rapid course of the illness were numerous, Earl and Countess Sydney being among the many who have thus expressed their sympathy with his family.

The funeral took place on Wednesday afternoon, the place chosen for the interment being the burial ground of the Church of the Annunciation. The day was in harmony with the mournful proceedings, but in spite of the cold wet weather, the service was attended by a very large number of people. Many of Mr. Tidman's friends assembled with the family at their residence, and the long procession of private carriages, among which were those of Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Tiarks, Mr. Honey, Mr. Nickalls, Mr. Watt, Mr. Thornton, and Mr. C. Balme, reached the church, which was already nearly filled, shortly before four o'clock. The mourning party consisted of Mr. Arthur Tidman, and Master Oscar Tidman, the sons, the Misses Marian and Ethel Tidman, his daughters, Mrs. Robert Tidman, the Misses Robert Tidman, Mr. Von Buch, Mr. Kershaw, Mr. and Mrs. S. Armitage, Mr. Key, General Sir Andrew Clarke, G.C.M.G., Sir Oscar Clayton, F.R.S., Mr. Gerald Balfour, M.P., Mr. and Mrs. Patteson Nickalls, Mr. T. R. Watt, Mr. R. B. Martin, Mr. E. L. Beckwith, Mr. Travers Hawes, Mr. J. J. Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. Gillilan, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen-son, Mr. H. Honey, Mr. Mactaggart, Mr. H. V. Pears, Mr. S. H. West, Mr. W. G. Spicer, Mr. Barnes (director of the Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Company), Mr. McTaggart, jun., Mr. Gwyther, Dr. Wade, and among those also present at the obsequies were Mr. Murton, Mr. Joseph Allen, Mr. Arthur Allen, Mr. Ernest Allen, and Miss Allen, Mr. Hewett, the Misses Nickalls, Miss Heighington, Mr. R. White, Miss Garrett, Mrs. Lloyd Russell, Mrs. W. C. Russell, Mr. Chattell, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Bowen, Mr. R. T. Raikes, Mr. Spicer, Mr. Herbert Murton, Mr. Campbell Russell, Mr. Morris Beck, Mr. F. Beck, Mr. Percy Shelley, Mr. F. O. Dobbie, Mr. Reginald Allen, Dr. Full, Mr. James Forrest, Mrs. Honey, Mrs. Travers Hawes, Mrs. J. Greig, Mr. Wood, Mr. Line, Mr. Willis (clerk to the Board of Conservators), Mr. Lord (station-master of Chislehurst), Mr. Inna, Mr. Aplin (representing Mr. Wing), Mr. Cooling, Mr. Birkett, Mrs. Birkett, Mr. Waters, and Mr. Sibley.

Before the arrival of the funeral procession, Mr. Frank Davey, A.C.O., played as voluntaries the funeral marches of Beethoven and Chopin. On being removed from the hearse, the coffin, which was of massive oak, with shell interior, and ornaments of solid mountings, and was covered with magnificent wreaths and crosses, was met by the choir and clergy at the west door. The versicles were repeated by the Vicar of the Church of the Annunciation, the Rev. H. Lloyd Russell, and the 90th Psalm was chanted by the choir. The lesson was read by the rector of Chislehurst, the Rev. F. H. Murray, and the hymns sung were "Ancient and Modern," "O God, our help" (165), "Ten thousand times ten thousand" (222), and "The Saints of God" (428). The last rites were observed at the side of the grave on the north-east of the church, and as the coffin was lowered into its resting place, there were visible many signs of strong emotion amongst the mourners gathered around. The sombre appearance of the grave had been relieved by a lining of flowers and ivy, executed by the vergers, Mr. Deen. The brass plate upon the coffin bore the simple inscription:—

**PAUL FREDERICK TIDMAN,**  
 Died January 27, 1889,  
 Aged 52 Years.

Several In Memoriam wreaths had been sent by various societies with which Mr. Tidman had been connected, especially by the Bi-metallic League, and the Chislehurst Mutual Society. The funeral arrangements were satisfactorily executed by Mr. Otway, of Chislehurst West.

Mr. Paul Frederick Tidman was born in 1837, and was the youngest son of Dr. Arthur Tidman, who was for 27 years secretary of the London Missionary Society. He matriculated at London University, and in 1856, when but 19, left England to seek his fortune in the East, and in a few years he became connected with merchants at Singapore, the capital of the Straits Settlements, and gained an extensive knowledge of the requirements of Eastern commerce from China and India to England. Soon after the formation of the Borneo Company, about 1857, Mr. Tidman was engaged as one of its agents in Sarawak, which had been governed since 1841 by Rajah Brooke. The company was founded to aid Sir James Brooke's efforts for the development of the country, and its chief officer under whom Mr. Tidman served was Mr. Ludvig Verner Helms, a Dane, who had been established in Borneo for several years, conducting trade

mining, and agricultural operations. In Mr. Helms' fascinating English volume, entitled "Pioneering in the Far East" (W. H. Allen and Co., 1882), the state of Borneo at that time is graphically described. The company's prospects were blighted at the outset, and its progress was retarded for several years by a disaster which befell Mr. Tidman and his colleagues. This was the insurrection of 4,000 Chinese settled in Upper Sarawak, and principally engaged in gold washing. They plotted against Rajah Brooke's government, and on the 18th of February, 1857, suddenly surprised the village of Sarawak, bringing fire and bloodshed upon the European settlers and the Malay population. Mr. Helms prefers to give the story of the insurrection in the words of one of his friends, who was in the midst of it, and made notes of the incidents as they occurred. He adds that the account was so vivid, and as he could attest, so truthful, that no apology was needed for giving it to his readers. The name of the writer of the diary inserted in Mr. Helms' book, from pages 164-192, and consisting of a "journal kept in Sarawak from February 19th, to March 28th, 1857," is not given, probably at the instigation of the writer, but it is now an open secret that it came from the pen of Mr. Tidman, then in his 21st year. The narrative relates fully the events of the crisis in which Mr. Tidman's life was in imminent danger, others Europeans falling victims to the violence of the Chinese. After five weeks of extreme tension, during which Mr. Tidman was left for a time the sole representative of the company in Borneo, Sarawak was retaken by armed steamers and Rajah Brooke's authority re-established. Seven years more were spent by Mr. Tidman in the East, extending his connections, but in 1864 he returned to England to settle near London, on his marriage with the daughter of Mr. Kershaw, M.P., for Manchester. After establishing the firm of Tidman, Balfour, and Co., in which he had for partner a member of the Chief Secretary for Ireland's family, he soon became known in City circles, and his influence in all matters relating to Indian commerce grew to be much sought after. Subsequently, he became partner in the firm of Mactaggart and Tidman, East India merchants, of 34, Leadenhall-street, E.C., a house of sterling reputation. Of late years he manifested a special interest in the Currency Question, on which he was qualified to speak with particular authority. He was practically the founder of the Bi-Metallic League, which was founded with the object of urging upon the British Government the necessity of co-operation with other leading nations for the establishment, by international agreement, of the free coinage of gold and silver at a fixed ratio of 15:30 of silver to one of gold. The suggestions were numerous which he made with the view of an amelioration of the present depreciation of silver and the appreciation of gold. He was the means of rendering an important service to the Empire when the question of the self-defence of the Colonies came to the front some four or five years ago. When public attention was first drawn to the unprotected state of our colonial commercial ports, and the necessity of making and defending coaling stations, Mr. Tidman was most energetic in moving the Straits Association of East Indian, Chinese, and Hong Kong merchants to take up the matter. He held the post of secretary to the Straits Association, which had a powerful influence in managing the local affairs of the States, and in making their wants known to the home authorities in London he carried on an incessant correspondence, and eventually saw his efforts crowned with success. Due acknowledgment of these services was made by the Government which came into power by the conferment upon him of the Order of Commander of St. Michael and St. George, an honour specially given to men of Colonial distinction. The loss of such a man will be greatly felt in the wide circle of his friends, and in Chislehurst his death has caused a great gap. He was the life and soul of a literary and debating society when his health permitted his attendance. The attractive qualities of his nature endeared him to all, and it will be long before Chislehurst ceases to regret his comparatively early death.

# THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1857.

## THE INSURRECTION AT SARAWAK.

The *Straits Times* of March 21 supplies a complete narrative of the rising of the Chinese at Sarawak, and of the retribution exacted by Sir James Brooke. Although rumours had been current that the Kungsi people contemplated resisting the authority of the local Government, the latter appear to have treated the matter with indifference. Suddenly, however, a large body, numbering about 200 Chinese, came down the river on and before the 17th February, and at midnight commenced a most determined attack on the Government people and property. They first secured possession of the two forts, one below and the other above the town of Kuchin (the seat of Rajah Brooke's authority), which were only garrisoned by twelve men, and, having furnished themselves with all the arms and ammunition in the forts, they proceeded to the work of destruction upon which they had ventured. This was at midnight, when all were asleep. One party made an attack on the residence of Sir James Brooke, whilst the remainder assaulted the houses of Mr. Crookshank (the magistrate) and Mr. Middleton (also a Government official).

A letter from Sir James Brooke, addressed to a personal friend, has appeared in the *Times*. In the following passage from it he gives a thrilling account of the insurrection:—

BALIDAH, March 15.

I may now relate more circumstantially the events of the last few weeks. Sarawak was as peaceful as it had ever been, and there was no cause to excite dissatisfaction among the Chinese or raise suspicion in our minds of any hostile designs; yet a conspiracy had been formed which had its ramifications in Singapore and in China. A follower of Tien-Te, the rebel chief, had arrived in Sarawak, and some criminals, who had been banished the country, secretly returned from Singapore. I had been unwell for some days, and on the night of the 15th retired early to bed. My servant was sleeping in a room near mine, and Mr. Steel and Nicholets occupied a small bungalow close by. Between twelve and one o'clock I was awakened by yells and shots, and, seizing my sword and revolver, I opened a window and saw that the house was surrounded. The noise told me it was by Chinese. I opened door by

door in the hope of finding means for escape, but in vain. I told Penty (his native servant) that our deaths were at hand, and, as the last hope, went down to the bathing-room, which was under repair. The door was not fastened. I opened it gently, and, seeing the way clear, ran across the lawn to the creek on the right hand of the house, and took the water close under the bows of the boat which had brought the murderers to their bloody work. I carried my sword and pistol across with me. Glad was I to touch ground on the far side, though not above thirty yards. I struggled through the deep mud, and lay down exhausted and panting in the road. Recovering breath, I got to the nearest house, and, launching a canoe, pulled up to the Datoe Bandars kampong. All was in confusion. I was too exhausted to do much, and Hercules himself could not have restored courage or order to such a panic-stricken crowd. Here Crookshank joined me bleeding from a severe swordcut in the arm. He believed his wife to be dead, and we both apprehended that the massacre would be general. Finding all hope of restoring affairs at the Bandars gone, I pulled to the kampongs above, and persuaded the people to secure their women and valuables in prahus, and to cross to the opposite or left bank of the river, so as to prevent the assailants from attacking them by land. My house, Arthur's, and Middleton's were long before this in flames. We got the women and children across the river, and Arthur, Crookshank, and myself retired to the same side, to the house of Nakodah Bryak. Here Crymble joined us, with the intelligence that after an hour's defence our fort or palisade had been taken, and with it all our guns, small arms, ammunition, &c. It had been defended by Crymble, with four men and two prisoners; three of the defenders were killed, one or two wounded, and Crymble himself had been grazed by a spear in his side. Middleton, Steel, Ruppell, and Penty dropped in one after another. The bright fires went out, and the dull morning broke at length, but only disclosing to us the hopeless state of our affairs. We remained at Nakodah Bryak's, doing what we could to animate the natives, and to prepare for such a defence as our means allowed, should we be attacked. I may here relate the fate and misfortunes of our fellow-sufferers. Poor Harry Nicholets was murdered on the grass, trying to reach my house. Crookshank and his wife escaped by their bath-room door. She ran first, and he protected her retreat with a spear in his hand, but in passing the stable, one of these villains rushed from the opposite side and cut her down. Her husband jobbed his spear into the murderer's back; but with a twist of his body he wrenched it out, and, snatching the shaft, he struggled to get the spear. Suddenly, however, letting go with his right hand, in which he held a short sword, he cut Crookshank across the fleshy part of the arm. Both staggered; both let go the spear; and Crookshank, weak with loss of blood, and believing his wife dead, staggered away and reached me. She, young and beautiful, lay for twelve hours weltering in her blood, conscious and calm in this extremity. One fiend hacked at her head till he cut off the long tresses which protected it; another tore her rings from her fingers; a third—for the sake of our common nature let it be told—gave her water to drink. By this time the remainder of the Europeans had been assured of protection; but when the Bishop asked the leader's permission to carry her to his house, he was told that she should be left to perish. At length the boon was granted, and she was relieved and tended, and is now, God be praised, recovering. Middleton's house was attacked at the same time and in the same manner as the others. He escaped with difficulty. His poor wife hid in a bakery till the burning rafters fell about her, and, from her concealment, saw the assailants kicking about the head of her eldest child. The mother was paralysed; she wished, she said, to rush out, but could not move. The youngest child was murdered and thrown into the flames, where poor Wellington's remains were likewise consumed, his head borne off in triumph alone, testing his previous murder. The day broke, as I said, and shortly after I heard that the Chinese had assured the survivors of safety; that they had communicated with the Bishop, and sent for Helms and Ruppell. I then, hopeless of doing good, started for the Siolo, a small cam which has its outlet far below the town: it was a wild walk: we swam the stream, washed out every track of our footsteps in the mud, and took refuge in a mangrove swamp as dark came on. By eight o'clock two small boats came to carry us away, and in an hour afterwards I was in Abong Buyon's prahu, manned by forty men, with six smaller boats in company.

Sir James Brooke, having received intelligence of the withdrawal of the Chinese, resolved to return to the Sarawak river; but before he could land the Chinese had a second time come down the river in force. Fortunately the steamer *Sir James Brooke*, from Singapore, hove in sight. The Rajah and his party proceeded in her to Kuchin, and soon succeeded in driving the invaders out of the town.

The native chiefs having let loose the Dyaks on the Chinese, the latter suffered great slaughter. According to the *Straits Times* of March 23, at least 1000 Chinese have been killed at the various places; while all the flourishing settlements of the Chinese (except at Kuchin) have been destroyed. The exact number of Chinese who have perished during the retreat it is impossible to say: it must be considerable, since out of a population of 4000 to 5000 Chinese belonging to the Kungsi, not more than 2000 escaped the late retribution, including women and children. On inquiry amongst the chiefs who acted against the Chinese, it was found that their loss did not exceed 1000 Malays and Dyaks. The Chinese residents at Kuchin were completely restored to confidence when the steamer left, and had reopened their shops.

IN MEMORIAM.

The loss which has befallen Chislehurst by the premature death of Mr. Paul Frederick Tidman is one that it will be difficult to replace. No man, it may be said without overshooting the mark, could be so ill spared as regards the general welfare of the community in which he lived, and the charm of his personality in social life will be greatly missed. His was a many sided character. The activity of his mind struggled with bodily ill-health of long standing. His residence for many years in the East, whither he went to seek his fortune while still young, enfeebled his strength, and rendered him less able to withstand a constitutional malady. In early life he passed through varied experiences, gaining an intimate knowledge of English commerce in the East. It was his good fortune to be associated with Rajah Brooke in the development of Sarawak, but his pioneer work for the Borneo Company seriously imperilled his life upon one occasion in an insurrection. On his returning to England, a close connection with the Straits Settlements was maintained, and he became virtually a representative in London of their wishes and interests. The story is told elsewhere of the energy with which he advocated the scheme for self-defence which was carried out in practical shape by Singapore, the first port of all the Crown Colonies. This patriotic service won the recognition it merited from the British Government. Every question that he took in hand was studied in its minutest detail. He had a natural turn for facts and figures. Ideas were clearly conceived in his mind, and found expression in a fluent delivery. The currency question was of great interest to him as affecting the course of Eastern trade, and he became an expert on bimetalism, pleading its claims with cogent arguments in pamphlets and other publications. Had he been able to devote himself solely to politics or literature, he would probably have attained a foremost place in either. As it was, he indulged his taste for both in the leisure hours of a busy life. His gifts in either direction were ever at the service of his neighbours. Chislehurst will long remember with esteem his participation in exclusively local affairs. The boon of the preservation of the Commons for the public in perpetuity is inseparably associated with his name, while his earnest endeavours to alleviate the distress of unemployed working-men by imparting full knowledge on the subject of emigration, and in affording the means, have earned him lasting gratitude. There are those in the far West of Canada whom the news of the decease of the man who was almost the last to wish them a prosperous career in a new country will sadden as they realise that they have lost a true friend. He had no enemies. He held his own opinions strongly, but differences were not allowed to disturb old ties or mar a courteous demeanour. Those who knew him intimately could not help loving him, and none made his acquaintance without speedily esteeming him.

"He leaves behind him, freed from griefs and years,  
Far worthier things than tears;  
The love of friends without a single foe,  
Unequalled lot below."

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The full text of Ludvig Helms' book 'Pioneering in the Far East' is now available online at archive.org

Use this link to go directly to page 164, where the long extract from Paul Frederick Tidman's diary begins.

<https://archive.org/details/pioneeringinfar00helmgoo/page/164/>