Editor’s note:

This notice was originally published as “Diary of a Hill-Trip on the Borders of Arracan. By Lieutenant T. H. Lewis” in Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society 11 (1867): 52.

M.W.C.

Brief Notice on T. H. Lewin’s Visit to the Arakan Hills in 1865-1866

This paper consisted of extracts from a report, by the author, of a hazardous journey he and his party had recently performed, in the course of their police duty, amongst the wild hill-tribes of the borders of Bengal, Arracan, and Burmah. The diary commences on the 15th November, 1865, and terminates with the arrival of the author at Chittagong on the 11th February, 1866, after a narrow-escape from a hostile party of the Shindoo tribe, who forced them to take refuge for two nights in the jungle.

Mr. Crawfurd explained that this paper was a portion of the diary of one of a number of officers called “Superintendents of Police” on the eastern frontiers of Bengal, where the two Eastern types of people, the Hindoo and the Mongolian, meet. Lieutenant Lewin was engaged in this duty, and towards the conclusion of the diary gave an interesting account of his adventurous attempt to penetrate the territory of these wild tribes. Between Burmah Proper and Pegu lies a district peopled by the Arracanese and a number of other tribes, all speaking different, languages. In attempting to penetrate into the country, Lieutenant Lewin and Lieutenant Monro and their party were surrounded and pursued, and they saved their lives with the utmost difficulty and with the loss of all their property.

The President, in expressing the thanks of the Society for this communication, said Lieutenant Lewin had displayed in this journey that gallantry common to British explorers, of which they were much accustomed to hear in the rooms of the Geographical Society.