

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

### The Remarkable Doctor *John Martin Honigberger* (1795-1869): A Review of His Travels and Medical Practices

#### Abstract

Dr. *John Martin Honigberger* (1795-1869), a native of Romania was a very charismatic, energetic and devoted physician, scientist as well as traveller who spent more than thirty years of his life in the East. He was able to speak several languages fluently. He travelled to Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Central Asia and India etc. and devotedly practiced his profession there. He excelled in treating in various kinds of diseases through allopathic, homeopathic and other types of medical systems. He is the man who introduced homeopathy for the first time in India. During his journey, he suffered from critical diseases several times, but he remained safe and sound through his own treatment. Having latest knowledge regarding medical systems, he successfully treated various rare diseases and effectively performed many types of surgeries. During travelling he did not miss any opportunities to obtain information concerning medicine. He practiced in the regions of the Ottoman Empire and served as a royal physician in the Sikh Empire. A number of health centres, dispensaries and a gunpowder mill of the Sikh army were under his charge. His travelogue is certainly a remarkable account and every paragraph of it consists of significant lore.

**Key words:** Dr. *J. M. Honigberger*, Travelling, Medications, *Lahore*, *Maharaja Ranjit Singh*

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## Introduction

Doctor *John Martin Honigberger* (1795-1869) was a renowned traveler, skillful surgeon, kind doctor (Allopathic and Homeopathic both), and a brave adventurer in his own right, but he was not a spy who spent his major part of his life under jeopardy in various eastern countries. He had a terrific enchantment for the East. At that time traveling using sea and land routes to various countries was not a simple task but he courageously carried out his medical practices and scientific experiments along with his long journey towards the East. He tried the homeopathic method besides allopathic, which he practiced for several years. According to his own experience, a wise doctor can get positive results from both methods. He learnt homeopathy from a German physician called Samuel Hahnemann, the father of homeopathy. Dr. *Honigberger* was the first European who was appointed as a personal physician to the mighty Lahore durbar where he was known as *Martin Sahib* among the local citizens. Subsequently, other European physicians such as Doctor Benet and Dr. Harvey were also attached to the Court of Lahore, but for a limited time. The first officially recorded homeopathic treatment in South Asia was conducted by him. 'He was admitted as an honorary member of the *Societe Asiatique de Paris* (Asian Society of Paris) in 1835.'<sup>1</sup> According to Richard E. Kunze, 'He had several hospitals and dispensaries under his charge, where he had every opportunity to carry his practical thoughts into effects.'<sup>2</sup>

The significant memoir of Dr. *J. M. Honigberger*, *Thirty-Five Years in the East...* was published from London in 1852. It consists of two volumes, the first volume is comprised of historical sketches and personal stories etc. whereas the second volume is very technical for general readers. Dr. *Honigberger* provided in his account an extensive medical terminology, plentifully illustrated by sketches of medical plants, and particulars of diseases and their medications in homoeopathy and allopathy etc. His eye-witness account is considered as a primary source not only about the Sikh Raj in the Punjab (the land of five rivers) but also about the contemporary political situations of surrounding regions of Punjab. According to the publisher of his tome, the author was not only a scientist but also he was well conscious of politics and could trace the progress of public fears and calculate the future.<sup>3</sup>

*Maharaja Ranjit Singh* (founder of the Sikh Raj in Punjab) greatly admired his professional expertise and therefore Dr. *Honigberger* was called back for assistance from Europe during the critical illness of *Maharaja*. He was acquainted

- 1- Bansal, 2010: 137.
- 2- Kunze, 1879: 3.
- 3- Honigberger, 1852: i-ii.



with fourteen different languages. Renowned UK-based author, Bobby Singh Bansal wrote about him, 'A fine man who spoke more languages compared to European contemporaries and was unlike his rivals, he hardly participated in trivial altercations at the Sikh Court.'<sup>4</sup> French botanist, traveler and natural historian, who visited Punjab during *Ranjit Singh's* reign named Victor Jacquemont (1801-1832), wrote in his travelogue, 'He has travelled in a very humble way and this is why he is able to speak so many languages well. He is very devoted to his profession and it is the chief object of his life.'<sup>5</sup> His written works also has certainly a brilliant contribution toward medical history. In short 'his life was full of adventures and pioneering work.'<sup>6</sup>

- 4- Bansal, 2010: 137.
- 5- Garrett, 1986: 33-34.
- 6- Singh, 2006: 163.
- 7- Grey, 1982: 232.
- 8- Sheikh, 2013.
- 9- Alpargu, 2013; 8(2):199.

### Early Life

He was born in 1795 at the town of Kronstadt (Braşov) in Transylvania region, Romania.<sup>7</sup> After completing his early education there, he joined a medical school and practiced in a local pharmacy. He carried on his higher studies and graduated with a M.D. degree. He then moved to a famous pharmacy in Bistriţa.<sup>8</sup> Being M.D. degree holder with distinction, he became a successful physician. Prof. Dr. Mehmet Alpargu wrote that 'after his medical education, he served in various lands of the Ottoman Empire, since he was interested in the East, and served in the Sikh state as a doctor of the ruler for a long time.'<sup>9</sup> (Figure 1)



*Figure 1. Courtesy: Dr. John Martin Honigberger, Thirty-Five Years in the East, Adventures, Discoveries, Experiments, and Historical Sketches, Relating to the Punjab and Cashmere; In the Connection with Medicine, Botany, Pharmacy & C. (London: H. Bailliere, 1852).*





Alexander Haughton Campbell Gardner (Colonel of artillery in the Sikh army) reported, 'He was a clever doctor, an enterprising traveler, and an amiable man.'<sup>10</sup>

10- Gardner, 1898: 296.

11- Grey, 1982: 232-33.

12- Honigberger, 1852: 32-33.

### **Journeying**

In 1815 at the age of twenty one, he set out to his first voyage towards the East. After having crossed Bukovina, Moldavia and Walachia, he reached at Varna on the Black Sea in 1816, from where he departed for Istanbul. It was his first ocean voyage. He visited Jerusalem two times. Wandering through Europe, Russia, Istanbul, Syria and Jerusalem reached Egypt. At Cairo in 1819, he was employed in the medical service of Turkish army. He heard about an outbreak of plague in Syria therefore he left his job in 1822 to probe the disease. In Damascus he started his practice as a specialist in small-pox, stone and plague. With and without instruments or anesthetics, he excellently cured stone diseases there.<sup>11</sup>

After medical practice in Damascus for seven years, Dr. *Honigberger* moved to Baghdad where he established his practice and earned great success. Shortly he decided to go to Baghdad for joining the service of Dawood Pasha (Georgian native). He was hired by the Pasha as his personal physician in the charge of a local hospital. Here his first patient was a twelve-years-old peasant lad. He was teased by insects in his ear which caused such a severe pain and sometimes the insects crept out of his ear. Dr. *Honigberger* was told that almost all the physicians of Baghdad have tried to treat him but failed to get any desired success. Wise Dr. *Honigberger* sat the patient in the rays of the sun at mid-day and lifted the affected ear-lap like this the sun rays could enter it. He found a black nest of insects which he took out with a tongs from the ear. The diameter of nest was half-an-inch and two-third of an inch long. After its removal, the patient's sense of hearing was restored and he got rid of severe pain. Dr. *Honigberger* received one thousand piasters from Dawood Pasha as reward to cure this peculiar case and his fame spread far and wide.<sup>12</sup>

At that time basic necessities of life were so cheap in Baghdad, consequently he could not earn an expected income there. In Baghdad he was knew that, four high ranked European military personnel of Sikh army were organizing a regular army to counter growing British influence, and that no European physicians or surgeons have been until then hired. Having heard of the generosity of *Maharaja Ranjit Singh* (reigned; 1799-1839) of Punjab, he made a decision to go to India which was considered by Europeans as a 'Golden



Bird'. Several colonial masters have tried to colonize India but eventually the British were successful in annexing the major part of the country and the Punjab was not annexed at the time of Dr. *Honigberger's* arrival.

Dr. *Honigberger* chose to live in Punjab instead of other parts of the huge Indian peninsula. Because at that time British colonialism was in full swing. The Great Mughals' power was declining after the demise of Emperor Aurangzeb Alamgir in 1707. India was divided into several states, and the British East India Company was grabbing them one by one. Only the Kingdom of Punjab became the most powerful indigenous state under the command of *Maharaja Ranjit Singh*. The unification of Punjab was done by him, who not only did this but also conquered other north and western adjacent regions of the Punjab such as Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan, and present day Khyber Pakhtunkhwa etc. He was basically a Sikh ruler and the Sikhs were in minority in these regions but amazingly they became the masters of this Muslim majority region for about fifty successive years. The major part of the Sikh state consisted of modern day central and northern Pakistan and remaining minor part is now in Indian control. *Ranjit Singh* was not a hardliner. He adopted the multi-ethnic and multi-religious recruitment policy to run the state. 'He successfully delivered a cosmopolitan Court. European Christians, Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs officials performed diligently their function at the Court of Lahore.'<sup>13</sup> A respected number of Europeans were inducted by *Ranjit Singh* in civil and military capacity. His four foreign generals were taught in the school of the Napoleonic wars. The Punjab became very influential and the richest country. The famous and peerless Koh-I-Noor diamond which remained as a central stone of the British Crown since over one hundred and fifty years, was seized from the Punjab after its annexation. Thus, Dr. *Honigberger* categorically decided to settle and practice in Lahore (the capital of the Kingdom of Punjab). 'Like Ventura and Allard, he too came to the Punjab, were drawn by *Ranjit Singh's* reputation.'<sup>14</sup>

*Honigberger* and his companion were late to travel to India by sea routes then they decided to stay a few months at Shiraz (Iran) for practicing their profession and waiting for the favorable winter season to travel towards Lahore. To look for the best appropriate employment in the Court of Lahore, Dr. *Honigberger* started to learn Persian language in leisure. On account of being continually mistreated and robbed by Iranians, they could not stay there for long. Hence, they decided to go Punjab via Isfahan, Herat and Kabul. On this journey they again faced the anger of Iranians, whose behavior was

13- Shah Noor, 2018; 32(1): 92.

14- Duggal, 2001: 87.



extremely inappropriate with them due to their defeat by the hands of Russians. They received a sympathetic reception from Hasrat Khan, the governor, when they reached at Isfahan. Hasrat Khan requested them to cure forty Russian prisoners, who were suffering from wounds and fevers. As a result of tiredness and efforts which they experienced at Shiraz, over and above on their journey to Isfahan, *Honigberger's* companion was affected by a nervous fever. Consequently, he no longer desired to go towards Lahore and forced Dr. *Honigberger* to return Baghdad. During winter season of 1829 Dr. *Honigberger* set off for another journey towards Punjab. At this time his only companion was an Armenian loyal Christian servant named, Antun. They set out from Baghdad, and via Basra and Muscat they arrived at Karachi port (Sindh). From Karachi they moved to Hyderabad with a camel caravan and resided for a few days and made the friendship of an Iranian Amir (nobleman). From Hyderabad they hired two camels and kept on their journey to Lahore. The road was at a distance from the river, for this reason they regularly forced to drink stagnant and bad smell water. That is why Dr. *Honigberger's* health seriously broke down during the journey in Sindh. He despaired of his life and his last will was written down by a government official. But unexpectedly, after five painful days his health had come round rapidly by his own incredible cure. Lychees were used as a key remedy for the treatment of this deadliest disease. All the locals present at that juncture were taken aback. After recovering, he kept on his trip and they travelled on horseback from Multan to Lahore. He and his assistant both passed as Muslims and stayed at mosques during this adventures journey in Sindh and nobody could recognize that they were Christians and not Muslims.<sup>15</sup>

15- Honigberger, 1852: 37-45.



### **In the Kingdom of Punjab**

He remained at Lahore between 1829-1833 and 1839-1849. Thereupon, his reputation as an outstanding European physician in Punjab was recognized. On his arrival at Lahore, he found that *Maharaja* with his troops and the four European generals were not present at the capital city. However, at the starting of the rainy season in the mid of June, they all came back Lahore from Peshawar and fine reception was given to Dr. *Honigberger*. During the absence of *Maharaja*, his first patient at Lahore was Achilles, the adopted son of his bosom friend, Jean Francois Allard (former military officer of Napoleon's 'Grande Armée' and here general of the Sikh army). He fell seriously ill with a fistula on the spine for a long time. As the result of Dr. *Honigberger's* treatment he came back to



his routine life. He treated and cured some soldiers bitten by a mad jackal. Subsequently, he treated various patients of hydrophobia. He also cured the *Maharaja's* beloved horse of its bad ulcers of the leg. Dr. *Honigberger* by his capabilities won the heart of *Ranjit Singh* that is why he was provided employment as a Court physician. One day he received an offer by *Maharaja* to accept the command of artillery or governorship of a province. However, Dr. *Honigberger* chose only the administration of a gunpowder and gunstock factory.<sup>16</sup> According to Alexander Gardner, 'He was nothing but a doctor, was compelled to superintend a gunpowder manufactory, and was pressed to accept a civil government.'<sup>17</sup> Thus he turned from medical practitioner to military bureaucrat. Khushwant Singh (best-known Indian author, journalist, historian and politician) remarked that 'he mixed gunpowder for the artillery and distilled brandy for the *Maharaja*.'<sup>18</sup>

He practiced initially in the *Gulab-Khana*, in that place all sorts of medicines like electuaries, tonics, essences, rose water, *bede-mushk*, etc. were prepared for the royal family.<sup>19</sup> He introduced the cow-milk-sugar in the Court of Lahore but the courtiers disliked this new kind of sugar. Here he also introduced coffee in 1832 at that time nobody knew about the effects of coffee in Lahore.<sup>20</sup> *Ranjit Singh* appointed General Paolo Avitabile (another European soldier of fortune) as governor of Wazirabad. During his governorship, his ankle sprained and after the treatment by local physicians his leg also became inflamed. But on account of Dr. *Honigberger's* fine cure his health recovered and his leg was restored to its former condition.<sup>21</sup>

### Return to Europe

Dr. *Honigberger* become homesick and wanted to visit his homeland thus he returned to his home town Kronstadt (Braşov) in 1834. When he arrived again at his home, his voice faltered and tears started flowing down on his cheeks when he saw again his father, mother and siblings after the absence of twenty years. His eastern dress was greatly liked by his relatives and they requested him not to change it and he accepted their wish. He visited some capitals of European countries in his oriental dress. (Figure 2)

At Paris he met renowned German Doctor Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of Homeopathy. Dr. Hahnemann informed him about the interesting secrets of his new method of therapy. He also introduced him to his pharmacist, named Dr. Liebermann. On the advice of Dr. Hahnemann, he purchased homeopathic medicines in a large quantity from Dr. Liebermann at Kothen. From Kothen he travelled to Leipsic,

- 16- Singh, 1964: 88-89.
- 17- Gardner, 1898: 202.
- 18- Singh, 2004: 252.
- 19- Gupta, 2008: 592.
- 20- Honigberger, 1852: 51-52.
- 21- Honigberger, 1852: 54.



Dresden and Toplitz, where a great congress of the Emperors of Austria, Russia, Prussia and the most eminent diplomats was held. He took some parts in carnivals and entertainment which were taking place there on that juncture and he was given much respect because of his eastern costume. He moved from Vienna, passed through Kronstadt and Bukarest reached Gallaz, from where he embarked to Istanbul. He was engaged with heart and soul in the new way of medicine and practiced it at Istanbul till 1838. During his stay at Istanbul his homeopathic practice was considerable, and he was rolling in money. That is why he did not want to leave Istanbul immediately.<sup>22</sup>

22- Honigberger, 1852: 82-90.

23- Bansal, 2010: 132.



*Figure 2. Dr. Honigberger in the eastern costume. Courtesy: Bobby Singh Bansal, The Lion's Firanghis: Europeans at the Court of Lahore, (London: Coronet House, 2010), 126.*

### **Again in India**

He received a message from Jean Baptiste Ventura (European general of the Sikh army) that *Ranjit Singh* was seriously ill and longed for him to come back to Punjab. The kind Dr. *Honigberger* thereupon abandoned his practice and returned to Punjab. On arrival at Lahore, he found his former benefactor, *Ranjit Singh*, seated on a chair with swollen feet; his organs of speech were paralyzed and he was not able to make a clear single sound. He just could communicate only with hands' movement.<sup>23</sup> Dr. *Honigberger* prepared a medicine on the request of the *Maharaja's* Muslim foreign





minister named, Faqir Aziz Uddin. His medicine enabled the weak *Maharaja* to sit up and speak. After three days his prescription produced the best results on *Maharaja's* health. *Ranjit Singh* was extremely happy and he ordered his prime minister named, Raja Dhyan Singh to present Dr. *Honigberger* two precious Kashmiri shawls as well as put a pair of gold bangles on his arms in *Maharaja's* own presence. However, after this event the courtier become jealous to him. The local physicians, astrologer and courtiers etcetera could not accept him as a European savior of *Maharaja Ranjit Singh*. He was stopped by Faqir Aziz Uddin (who enjoyed ringside seat in *darbar*) from further treatment of the King and shortly by the substitute cure of local physicians, *Ranjit Singh* passed away in June 27, 1839.<sup>24</sup>

He witnessed many of the catastrophic incidents of anarchical period which occurred after the death of *Ranjit Singh*. Renowned military historian Prof. Kaushik Roy wrote about this, 'His memoir portrays the tension within the Khalsa *darbar* between the modernizers and traditionalists.'<sup>25</sup>

### His Professional Expertise

About his medical expertise C. Grey remarked, 'He relates wonderful cures of plague, glanders, hydrophobia, small-pox, cobra bite, stone etc., and marvelous surgical operations which, withal, are given with such simplicity and detail that they have a conviction that the doctor is telling the perfect truth.'<sup>26</sup> Dr. *Honigberger* mentioned several times in his tome about the effectiveness of medicine known as *mumiai*. According to his account, an elephant with his driver fell into a gravel in crossing the ruins of old Lahore at night. Mrs. Van C....who was in ninth month of her pregnancy also fell and as a result her two ribs broke. Dr. *Honigberger* started his treatment with a copious bleeding from the arm and then he suggested to her one piece of *mumiai* for three consecutive days. Moreover he advised her to lay quietly on her back therefore plaster was not disturbed. After few days she easily gave birth of a healthy child.<sup>27</sup> He wrote about a specific disease, which was known as *Mar-e-Esheq* (snake-love) in Punjab. He saw nearly a dozen of those male patients in Lahore but the number of such patients in Punjab was very large. He sacrificed some two hundred fowls in half a year for his experiments with the snakes and came across interesting results.<sup>28</sup>

In the absence of Dr. *Honigberger* a strange event occurred in Lahore when a *Faqir* named, Haridas performed an unbelievable experiment. Haridas claimed that he was able to keep himself in the state of asphyxia (a condition arising

24- Honigberger, 1852: 91, 94-95, 96-97.

25- Roy, 2004: 198.

26- Grey, 1982: 232.

27- Honigberger, 1852: 137-38.

28- Honigberger, 1852: 141-46.



when the body is deprived of oxygen, causing unconsciousness or death; by suffocation) for several days. He successfully performed his experiment in the presence of *Maharaja Ranjit Singh*, General Ventura, all the Sikh courtiers and some Englishmen such as British political agent of Ludhiana named, Captain Wade and an English doctor etcetera. By the order of *Ranjit Singh* he buried for several days in a specially build vault. On the fortieth day, the chest was unlocked and Haridas was found in the unchanged, cold and inflexible position. By and by he was restored to life by his assistants' healing. The details regarding this, available in the books of Dr. *Honigberger* and, an eye-witness account of William Godolphin Osborne (military secretary to Lord Auckland, Governor-General of India) on pages 130-137 and 123-129, respectively. As mentioned aforesaid, that event did not happen in front of Dr. *J. M. Honigberger* but he did confirm this from authentic people He strongly supported the authenticity of the claim of Faqir Haridas and gave some scientific examples. (Figures 3 and 4)



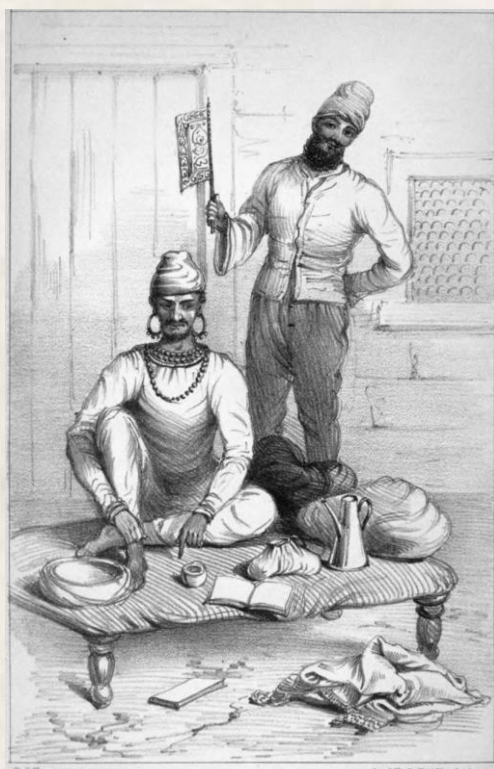
*Figure 3. Faqir Haridas' appearance. Courtesy: Honigberger, Thirty-Five Years in the East, 130-131.*

In the year 1845, the epidemic of cholera broke out at Lahore, when the plague had touched its height, there were upwards of eight hundred deaths daily. During this bloody period which consisted of six weeks he had the opportunity of making a lot of experiments. Last three weeks when the height of epidemic of cholera had decreased, he began to try



the effects of Galvano-electric rings as a safety purpose. A few hundreds of rings made of copper and zinc and, silver and zinc were distributed among the people free of cost by him. As a result those who wore the rings of silver and zinc were all saved. To prove his experiment, he fortunately got another chance in the autumn of 1850 when cholera had broken out during his stay at Vienna. He again distributed hundreds of rings gratis to many people, and any people who wore these ring were not affected by that fatal disease. In his opinion one ring is relatively sufficient for one person and it is not only sufficient to prevent from cholera but also it is good for other diseases. He believed that 'an electro-magnetic fluid is diffused through our most subtle nerves, its source or battery is the brain, and it is probable that the wise Creator, for that reason, has united all the organs of sensation there.'<sup>29</sup>

29- Honigberger, 1852: 150.



*Figure 4. Faqir Haridas and his attendant. Courtesy: W.G. Osborne, The Court and Camp of Runjeet Singh (London: Henry Colburn, 1840), 124-125.*

He continued in service even after the conquest of the Kingdom of Punjab by the British. He founded a psychiatric hospital in Lahore where he successfully treated five lunatics within two months. One day when the chief of Lahore police named, Major MacGregor was passing the marketplace on horseback, a forty years old mad woman suddenly came in





front of him. By the order of police chief the mad woman handed over to Dr. *Honigberger* for her treatment. At that time she was very depressed and almost naked. After the treatment, she was present to Major MacGregor who was so impressed by her clean white dress and normal behavior. Dr. *Honigberger* was asked about her treatment and he described that through some physic, cleanliness, good food, douche-baths, proper dress, activity, entertainment, gifts and promises etcetera, all this with fine cure, these people can be back in their normal lives. He also successfully treated the brother of Gul Begum aka Gulbahar. Gul Begum was the famous Muslim wife of *Maharaja Ranjit Singh*. Her brother was accustomed to smoking *charas* (hashish) and was insane twice. After the cure by Dr. *Honigberger* he came back to normal life.<sup>30</sup>

According to his observation most of the Indians were accustomed to using ice-cold ginger beer as a beverage in hot seasons. In his opinion, cold drinks are not effective to decrease the level of dehydration during in hot seasons, while a cup of hot tea with milk produces a different result and it should be preferred to cold beverages.<sup>31</sup> Today, consuming tea with milk which is known as *chai* or *doodh patti* *chai* is the most popular drink of South Asian people. 'India consumes 837,000 tonnes of it (*chai*) every year.'<sup>32</sup>

After sometime of the annexation of Punjab, his office was demolished by the English government in Lahore. Therefore he decided to go Europe permanently but the weather condition was not suitable for oceangoing journey. His health already broke down to some extent thus he decided to spend some free time in the beautiful region of Kashmir (also known as Jannat Nazeer) where *Maharaja Gulab Singh* ruled after the First Anglo-Sikh War. Dr. *Honigberger* got the obligatory permission from the English government at Lahore, and also from the *Maharaja Gulab Singh*, he arrived at Kashmir valley after three weeks. Gulab Singh offered him employment to his durbar but he refused. During his stay in Kashmir, he did not ignore any possibilities of obtaining knowledge of its botanical riches or collecting such plants to be useful for therapeutic aims. Shortly the local Kashmiri knew about his popularity in Lahore as a kind and successful physician. A large number of Kashmiri patients with relatives came to his health center from remote areas and his treatment was free of cost for these patients. He told to Gulab Singh that the land of Kashmir is very appropriate for the cultivation of tea and, beet for obtaining sugar which both were imported from other countries. This information was shocking for Gulab Singh. In September, he left Kashmir and set out to the Europe with

30- Honigberger, 1852: 155-57.

31- Honigberger, 1852: 169.

32- Anonymous, 2014.

33- Honigberger, 1852: 180-82.



a large number of Kashmiri products.<sup>33</sup>

34- Bansal, 2010: 134-35.

### Last Days

He already resigned his post and went back to his homeland with his two daughters. He applied for a pension and English government of India granted him a pension of five-hundred rupees monthly to be paid in Europe. Later in his life, he returned three times to South Asia. He married three times, the second one was to a Kashmiri lady named, Goolabi by whom he had two daughters. During the last few years of his life, he wrote various booklets such as *Le Cholera: Traitement et Guérison*, *Fruche aus dem Morgenlande*, and compiled a biological medical dictionary in nine languages. In Braşov, he also wrote columns for the local newspaper *Siebenbürgische Wochenblatt*. The remarkable Doctor *John Martin Honigberger* passed away at the age of seventy four on 18th of December 1869.<sup>34</sup>

### Conclusion

As we see, Dr. *J. M. Honigberger's* life was full of adventures. He was a man of determination and of respectable character, and above all a man of literary taste. He was not a politician or political thinker but he had perception provided valuable eye-witness written account about the political circumstances of the Kingdom of Punjab. Certainly, his adventures, experiments, discoveries and historical sketches have had great importance for modern-day medical practitioners and general people. During his long journey, he experienced weird adventures especially his trip from the mouth of the Indus to Lahore, was incredible. His contribution to the medical sciences is outstanding. He worked amazingly at the same time as a physician, surgeon and pharmacist. In short, on account of his professional expertise and good-natured personality, he earned great appreciation as well as prosperity from the East where he spent almost half of life in the 19th century.

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