

Sir James John Gordon Bremer (1786-1850)

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Bremer, Sir James John Gordon (1786-1850), rear admiral, the son and grandson of naval officers, was entered as a first class volunteer on board the Sandwich guardship at the Nore in 1794. This was only for a few months; in October 1797 he was appointed to the Royal Naval College at Portsmouth, and was not again embarked till 1802, when he was appointed to the *Endymion* as a midshipman under **Captain Philip Durham**. For the next fourteen years he was actively and continuously serving in different parts of the world. He was made lieutenant on 3 August 1805, commander on 13 October 1807 and captain on 7 June 1814, but had no opportunity of achieving any special distinction.

On 4 June 1815 he was nominated a C.B.; and on 24 October 1816, whilst in command of the *Comus* frigate, he was wrecked on the coast of Newfoundland. In February 1824 he was sent, in command of the *Tamar*, to establish a colony on Melville Island, Australia; after which he went to India and took part in the first Burmese war. On 25 January 1836 he was made a K.C.H., and in the following year was appointed to the *Alligator*, and again went out to Australia, where, the colonising of Melville Island having failed, he formed a settlement at Port Essington.

Thence he again went to India, where, by the death of **Sir Frederick Maitland**, in December 1839, he was left senior officer for a few months, till superseded by **Rear-admiral Elliott** in July; and again in the following November, when **Admiral Elliott** invalided, till the arrival of **Sir William Parker** in August 1841.

Sir Gordon Bremer had thus the naval command of the expedition to China during the great part of the years 1840-1, for which services he received the thanks of parliament, and was made K.C.B. on 29 July 1841. In April 1846 he was appointed second in command of the Channel squadron, with his broad pennant in the Queen; and in the following November to be commodore-superintendent of Woolwich dockyard, which post he held for the next two years. He attained his flag on 15 September 1849, but died a few months later, on 14 February 1850.

He married, in 1811, **Harriet**, daughter of **Thomas Wheeler**, and widow of the **Rev. George Henry Glasse**, and left a family of two sons and four daughters, the eldest of whom married Captain (afterwards Admiral) **Sir Leopold Kuper**.

[*O'Byrne's Nav. Biog. Dict.; Gent. Mag. (1850), N.S. xxxiii. 534*]

[*Dictionary of National Biography, Ed. Leslie Stephen, vol. v1, 1886 London*]

Additional Notes:

Sir. J.J. Gordon Bremer's eldest son **Edward Gordon Bremer** died at the age of 26 at Edinburgh Castle 8th April 1847, and is buried in Greyfriars Kirkyard.

