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The following brief note has been drawn from Crawford's 1826 Journal. Although brief, it offers an account of the origin of the use of 'Baren' that Burmese sometimes used to refer to the British.

M.W.C.

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**Note on the Word 'Baren' for the British East India Company**

**John Crawford**

The Burman word "Baren," used in this document [the 3 November 1826 Burmese Draft of the Commercial Treaty], means sovereign. The Burmese suppose the word Company to be a title of the Governor-General. It is almost unnecessary to say, that the East India Company, as such, is wholly unknown to them. During the war, a very curious illustration of this fact came under the immediate notice of the British officers in Ava. A person of some notoriety at the time, called the Raj-guru, a Brahmin, and the principal Court astrologer, had been employed by the Burmese Government as a secret emissary in Bengal. After his detection, he was employed by us as an agent, in our endeavours to bring about a pence. In this capacity he repaired, to Ava, but never returned. After the capture of Melun, his Correspondence was discovered in the stockade, and it was found that he had been intriguing in our very camp, and furnishing the enemy with intelligence. In this Correspondence, when he spoke

of the Governor-General personally, he invariably and unceremoniously gave him the name of "Company," and no other.

