

PLEASE NOTE

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THE

COLONIAL MAGAZINE.

AN ADDRESS TO BRITISH COLONISTS AND COLONIZERS.

At the commencement of a year destined, we trust, to mark a new era in Colonial affairs, we wish to address our friends in the Colonies, as well as those at home, who take an interest in their welfare.

The COLONIAL MAGAZINE was established many years ago for the purpose of making known to the British public the importance of that mighty empire on which the sun never sets, the character, resources, and advantages of each portion, and at the same time of giving the Colonists an organ of their own, by means of which they might express their wishes, their intentions, and expectations to their brethren at home.

In conducting the work we have ever endeavoured to keep this object in view; but it must be remembered that from its very nature we are in a far more dependent position than are any of our cotemporaries. We require a peculiar combination of circumstances to enable us to procure the articles with which we would wish to fill our pages. We cannot collect a staff of professional writers, who may range over the whole field of literature to find their subjects. Our contributors must, in most cases, reside in, or have visited the Colonies, and be well acquainted with Colonial life and affairs, and they must have the power, the will, and the time to write. Money, in fact, cannot purchase what we require. Among the constant and active occupations of Colonial life, few have time to write; but still

there are some who, anxious to benefit the Colony they have made their home, may snatch a few minutes in the day from their more active employments, to describe the scenes among which they live, and the events occurring around them, or to discuss topics of importance to the general welfare. On them, therefore, we must rely for the most valuable portion of the subject matter of our pages, and to them we appeal with confidence for the assistance we require, and which they alone can afford. In most of the Colonies we have correspondents, and we are establishing others; and we have received very considerable aid from various friends conversant in Colonial affairs now residing in England, and to them we tender our most grateful thanks for the support they have afforded us. We are assured that they will continue that support; but we are anxious still further to extend our connections both at home and abroad, so that every Colony may be fairly and equally represented in our pages. We do not aim so much at literary excellence as at affording correct information and truthful accounts of the Colonies, and more especially as being the expositors of the public opinion of each of them. We wish in each number to give some notice of every Colony, and to discuss all Colonial topics of general interest; besides which, our aim is especially to make the work useful to intending Colonists. We shall continue to give in order an account of the present state and condition of all the British Possessions and Colonies, while we shall introduce, as opportunities occur, the various other subjects which we proposed at the commencement of the present editorial management. It must be obvious, however, that our success in making the work interesting and valuable depends more on the Colonists of England than on ourselves. If they will supply us with matter, we will arrange and publish it, and we may then hope to increase that interest in their welfare, and that sympathy for them among the British public which has, we trust, already been brought into existence. It is our earnest wish to foster, encourage, and extend that interest; but unless the Colonists do their part, we cannot hope for success. We seriously think that it is worthy of the consideration of all Colonists, whether in each Colony a Committee should be formed to select writers of capacity to draw up interesting accounts on all subjects connected with the country, to be published in our pages. We recommend the adoption of such a plan, and at all events we request that copies of all reports and

other papers of importance may be forwarded to us for insertion. If the Colonists will look upon the COLONIAL MAGAZINE as their friend and organ, we will do our utmost to make it merit that distinction, and we then feel well assured that, it being received as such by the British public, by its increased circulation it will enable their voice to be heard throughout the length and breadth of the land, and they will obtain from the hands of their countrymen that justice which they so well deserve. Again assuring them of our devotion to their interests, we commence our first number for the year.

W. H. G. KINGSTON

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BRITISH POSSESSIONS AND COLONIES.

VII.—INDIA.

(Bengal Presidency continued.)

SINCE we commenced this sketch of the British Possessions in India, a very important alteration has been projected in the division of those territories, namely the formation of a fourth Presidency, to be called the Presidency of Lahore, and to include not only the district north of the Sutlej, but also several of the north-west provinces hitherto under the government of Agra. This alteration, however, not being yet effected, we shall not deviate from our original plan of describing the remainder of the Bengal Presidency at present existing.

Our last number referred chiefly to the provinces under the lieutenancy of Agra; we next come to the collection of independent states under British protection, denominated Rajasthan, or Rajpootana, an important section of India, inasmuch as the inhabitants, the Rajpoots, or "children of the sun," are of the highest caste, and take the lead among the neighbouring states, and the example set by them is certain to be followed throughout Hindostan. Of what consequence it is, therefore, that British influence, through their means, should be exerted at all times for good. Their language differs much from the Hindostanee, and rather resembles the Sanscrit. The native troops of Bengal are chiefly levied from among the Rajpoots, who, it must be remarked, are also to be found in other provinces, and it would be difficult to meet with a finer body of soldiers, or any more distinguished for firmness and courage.

The largest of the Rajpoot states is that of Jypore, the Rajahs of which were for a long time the most wealthy and powerful of all the independent princes. It borders on the province of Agra. The city of Jypore stands in the centre of a sandy plain, apparently once a lake, surrounded on three sides by barren stony hills. It is very extensive, and was built by a former sovereign, Jye Singh, on a regular plan, with one very wide street, crossed at right angles by three others, with a square in the centre of the town, which serves as a market-place. The houses, which are in general high, are inter-

spersed with handsome temples, and in the centre is a lofty minaret. The city is laid out in quarters, or wards, according to the rules of the Shaster, one being for the Thakoors, or nobles, another for the Brahmins, a third for the ordinary Rajpoots, a fourth for the caste of Kayts, or writers, a fifth for the Bunyans, or traders, and a sixth for the Gaowalas, or cow-keepers, while a seventh is occupied by the palace, a large and lofty building, surrounded by beautiful gardens. The whole is encircled by a high wall with dentellated battlements and towers, of no great strength, but extremely picturesque, and defended by forts on the summits of the neighbouring hills. Numerous gardens are scattered round it, forming a contrast to the barren country near it. A short distance from Jypore is Umeer, the ancient capital of the principality, situated on a high wooded hill. The palace is a noble castle, the numerous terraces and balconies of which command a beautiful view, and the carvings in stone and marble, and inlaid flowers, and other ornaments, surpass those of Delhi in magnificence, as the palace itself does in size.

The Rajahs of Jypore were generally on pretty good terms with the Emperors of Delhi, and though nominally vassals, always preserved a state of independence of their authority. The Mahratta conquests blighted all their prosperity, and the Rajah lost so much power over his own nobles, as to be glad to place himself under the protection of the British. It was at Jypore that the first really effectual measures were taken by the British Resident towards the abolition of suttee, less by force than by policy, as well as the custom of female infanticide, which arose from the difficulty the higher orders of Rajpoots had in paying their daughters' portions, or in providing suitable festivities at their marriage, which often proved so expensive an affair as to impoverish the father, who dared not resist any demands made on him by the priests on such an occasion; and as it is considered a disgrace for a Rajpoot girl to remain unmarried, this was thought the easiest way of disposing of them, and the example was followed by the poorer classes. This horrible practice is now forbidden by Government, and we hope is nearly at an end.

The district of Ajmere is dreary and barren. The town, which is surrounded by rocky hills, on which the prickly pear abound, is of moderate size, with well-built, white-washed houses, on the slope of a mountain; little ruinous mosques and Mussulman tombs mixed with brushwood are scattered round it. On the top of the mountain is a remarkable fortress called Taraghur, two miles in circuit, of

irregular shape, but almost inaccessible, and well provided with water. Ajmere is famous in the eyes of Mussulmans, as containing the tomb of a celebrated saint whose miracles are renowned all over India, which attracts crowds of pilgrims, and in Malwah it is common for those who have been at the Ajmere Durgah, to set up a stone taken from the sanctuary, and have pilgrimages made to them in consequence of such a possession. A school for the Hindoos was established some time since by the Government.

South of Ajmere are the territories of the Ranah of Oodeypore, large in extent and naturally fertile, but not well cultivated, and the country has a desolate look, having suffered much from the incursions of the Pindarrees. His palace, however, rivals Windsor in grandeur. To the west is Mount Aboo, which, next to the Himalaya, is the most elevated spot in Hindostan, and the chain of the Aravulli Hills, which extend from the confines of Delhi to the Vindya Mountains, and abound in scenes of savage grandeur, presenting at Rinthumbaor a range of lofty crags, through which several large rivers have forced their way, laying bare the rock to 600 feet in perpendicular height.

To the south of Agra, the Chumbul, a large and picturesque river, rising in the distant range of the Vindya Mountains, divides the British dominions from those of the Mahrattas. The formidable fortress of Gwalior, not far from this boundary, stands on a rock a mile and a half in length, round the base of which is the town. It is of great natural strength, but was taken in 1780 by Major Popham, who gained it by a successful stratagem, with little loss, and without the aid of guns. The date of its founding is uncertain, but Rajahs of Gwalior are mentioned in Indian history as far back as 1008. It was used as a state prison in the time of Aurungzebe, who here disposed of his two brothers and other troublesome relatives, by administering to them an infusion of poppies, which served as a slow poison both to mind and body. The plain surrounding it is celebrated as having been the camp of the great chief, Scindia, and presented a splendid scene when covered with the followers of the Mahratta sovereign, their red and white striped tents, and their long lances glittering in the sun. This extraordinary race, who have played so great a part in the modern history of India, it has been remarked have never relinquished the predatory spirit of their founder Sivajee, and while all other Hindoo states took pride in the improvement of their country, the work of the Mahrattas seems to have been chiefly desolation, and they continued to ravage the land till they were conquered by the English.

Their personal appearance is mean and diminutive, but they are brave and skilful soldiers. Their chief weapon is a spear, from twelve to eighteen feet long; but they are also skilful in the use of fire-arms, and the artillerymen, or *golandâze*, are very proud of their large brass guns, giving each a pet name, and on holidays decking them with garlands. They are famous for the size and beauty of their elephants, which on state occasions are gorgeously caparisoned with a network and chains of silver. The chief peculiarity of their dress is the muslin turban, fastened under the chin with a gaudy silk scarf.

To the south of Bundelcund, the Vindya range of mountains extends nearly across the peninsula, and expands at its eastern extremity into a mountain rampart, which separates Bengal and Orissa from Berar, and at the western a somewhat similar barrier divides Malwah from Kandesh and Guzerat; this and the Sathpura range, which likewise accompanies the whole course of the Nerbudda river, appear to have afforded an asylum to the aboriginal inhabitants of central India when they retreated before the southern progress of the Brahminical Hindoos. The most eastern of these hills are the loftiest and most inaccessible, and much of the country is even yet unexplored. They are tenanted by various barbarous races, of whom the principal are the Koles, the Khands, and the Gonds, living in villages under their own chiefs, and subsisting more on the produce of their cattle, or by the chase, and the wild productions of the earth and forests than by agriculture. They are scantily clothed, and armed with bows and arrows, large knives, and sometimes matchlocks. Though professing to hold the Brahmins in respect, the objects of their rude worship are chiefly local divinities, as the deity of the earth, or the presiding genii over certain mountain peaks. Towards the western extremity of the ranges, the hills and forests are occupied by the Bheels, a race somewhat similar to the above-mentioned, but associating more freely with their civilized neighbours, and therefore less barbarous. They, however, spread themselves over the plains, and have committed great depredations on the cultivated lands. Such were the inhabitants of the districts of Malwah, Berar, and other posts bordering on the Nerbudda, which became British possessions in 1817; the greater portion being wild and rugged, covered with dense and insalubrious thickets, though in the centre is some level land, on which are several populous and flourishing towns.

Hussingabad is the chief town of this part of the British territory, and is situated to the south of the Nerbudda river, which is at least

700 miles long, and is said to rise near the source of the Sone: its passage through the valley is obstructed by rocks and shallows, and beautiful cataracts. Malwah is celebrated for its opium, which is considered superior to any other grown in India.

ORISSA.

The province of Orissa, or Cuttack, in which some of the earliest European settlements were made, extends along the sea coast from the west of Lower Bengal to the north-west boundary of the Madras Presidency, and is divided from the former by the Subanreeka river, a fine broad winding stream, whose banks are ornamented with some magnificent banyan trees. The sea-coast is flat; but at Balasore, six miles from the sea, in the north of the province, is a fine range of hills, extending southwards towards Madras, and the central district, the Mogulbundy, is hilly, and covered with magnificent timber. Balasore was originally a settlement of the Dutch, who established themselves there in 1660, and was ceded to the Company by the Mahrattas in 1803. It was once considered a sea-port of great value, and still contains the ruins of factories belonging to the English, French, Dutch, and Danish nations, as well as a small Portuguese chapel, but its commerce is now inconsiderable. The town of Cuttack, 251 miles from Calcutta by land, is well situated near the bifurcation of the Mahanuddy river, which is here two miles across. It is very extensive, with a large population, and contains a very handsome Government House. The approach to the town is extremely striking, a long avenue of noble trees leading to the bank of a beautiful stream, which rushing against the bold angle on which the town is built, is split into two channels, distinguished by the respective names of Mahanuddy and Cajori. This point is fortified by a strong stone *revetement* against the abrupt rising of the river, which frequently takes place. The town is surrounded by luxuriant groves, and backed by the swelling hills of Koorda. Near the cantonments is the fortress of Barabati, through the conquest of which the Company obtained possession of this rich province. It is of great antiquity, being built by the ancient Rajahs of Orissa; it received several additions from the Mahomedans, who seized the country in the 18th century, and subsequently fell into the hands of the Mahrattas, from whom it was wrested by the English, after a determined resistance, in 1803. Its lofty ruins still occupy more than a square mile, and are surrounded by a ditch 220 feet wide, swarming with alligators.

Cuttack is not considered healthy for European constitutions, being very damp and surrounded with luxuriant verdure. It is famous for a class of men called Ooria bearers, who are much employed as household servants at Calcutta and other parts of the Presidency, being noted for their fidelity and honesty. A good road, constructed by Government, leads southwards from Cuttack to Pooree-Juggernaut, a distance of fifty-two miles, raised on an embankment as a security against floods, and shaded most of the way by fine old trees. Pooree is situated close to the sea, and is an extensive town; the main street, which contains chiefly the dwellings of the ministers of the temple of Juggernaut, leads directly up to that stupendous and far-famed building, which raising its ill-proportioned and unsightly tower high above the ancient and luxuriant trees, forms a convenient land-mark for ships bound to Calcutta. Immediately below the town the line of cultivation suddenly ceases, and is succeeded by a huge bank of dazzling sand, extending down to the sea, a distance of about a mile, along which arid region are scattered the European bungalows and military station. The annoyances of the drifting sand and burning sun are rather counterbalanced by the refreshing sea breeze, and many English come here from Cuttack during the very hot weather, for change of air. The surf breaks with great violence on the shore, so as to render a European boat unsafe, and the communication with ships from the shore is carried on, as at Madras, by the native surf-boats, the mussoola and catamaran. The former is deep, spacious, and light, the planks sewed together with thongs, and the sides so elastic as to yield when struck by a sea; the latter is a sort of raft formed by three long timbers rudely bound together with ropes. The great temple of Juggernaut, composed of a kind of rough stone, is surrounded by a wall containing a raised platform, on which stands the tower, 200 feet high. According to ancient Brahminical records preserved in the building, the temple of Sri Jeo, or Juggernaut, existed many centuries before our era, was destroyed and re-built many times, and was lastly restored, in A.D. 1198, by Rajah Bim Deo, of Orissa, who is said to have expended nearly £500,000 on the work. Here dwell the idols Juggernaut and his brother and sister, and from thence at the festival of the Rath Jatra, they were drawn in procession by 1,500 men harnessed to each of their cars, and still numbers of pilgrims come from all parts of India to attend it, though they do not as formerly throw themselves under the wheels of the car. The Black Pagoda, or Temple of the Sun, is sixteen miles to the