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VIEWS IN THE EAST;

COMPRISING

INDIA, CANTON,

AND

THE SHORES OF THE RED SEA.

WITH

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE ILLUSTRATIONS.

BY

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VOL. II.



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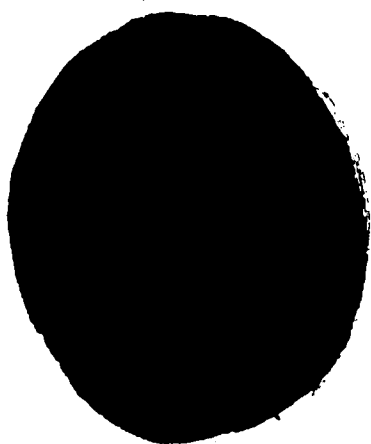


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P R E F A C E.

THE plains of Hindostan are thickly covered with ruined cities of vast extent, and great splendour. The Pagodas, Temples, and excavations of the Hindoos—the Mosques, Tombs, and Palaces of the Mahomedans—are falling into decay on every hand.

The distinction between the Hindoo and Mussulman buildings is strongly marked; and the difference in the styles of the Patan architecture, and that of the Moguls, is not less distinguishable: the massive, heavy, and melancholy structures of the former, contrasts admirably with the extremely elegant, though scarcely less substantial buildings of the latter. The mixture of a fine red stone, and the purest white marble in the same edifice, produces a rich and beautiful effect, and gives, in those bright and sunny lands, such a brilliancy to some of the desolate cities of India, that those only who have stood in the midst of them, can at all comprehend. The Buildings, of almost entirely white marble, such as the Tâj Mahal, Etemad-Ud-Dowlah, and Mootee Musjid, at Agra—and some of the Pavilions and Mosques in the Palace at Delhi—surpass in elegance, splendour, and beauty, all others, either in this, or probably in any other country in the world.

One thing remarkably curious in Indian building is—the almost total absence of bridges. The swollen state of the large rivers during the rainy season, may account for it in many cases; but that such a thing as a bridge, constructed either in ancient or modern times, by the natives, being scarcely (if at all) to be met with under any circumstances, is certainly in some degree remarkable.

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DOWLUTABAD.

THE hill fortress of Dowlutabad is situated about seven miles from the city of Aurungabad, in a north-westerly direction ; and is passed on the road that leads from that town to the excavations at Ellora.

This is one of the most remarkable of all the hill fortifications that are spread over the face of the empire of Hindoostan ; inasmuch as art has given it, in a great measure, that degree of strength and security, which nature has provided in other cases ; and with this peculiarity likewise, that in other hill fortresses, the scarp, or perpendicular part of the height, is usually at or near the summit, while at Dowlutabad it is at the foot of the elevation. This fortification is formed out of an insulated hill, that lies scarcely more than a mile from the foot of the same ghaut, or raised table-land, on the steep sides of which the celebrated Caves of Ellora are excavated ; and as it stands alone on the plain, it looks as though, in the convulsions of the deluge, it might have been separated, and rolled away from the high land in its immediate neighbourhood. When the person who supplies this notice walked round the foot of this singular mountain, he could not help being struck with an appearance that gives an air of reality to the idea, that it might, at one period of the world, have been broken away from the heights near which it is situated. The scarping at the foot of the hill, and the cutting a deep and wide ditch that surrounds it, displays a distinct and, in some