

HISTORY OF THE PUNJAB.

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HISTORY OF THE PUNJAB,

AND OF THE

RISE, PROGRESS, & PRESENT CONDITION

OF

THE SECT AND NATION

OF

THE SIKHS.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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P R E F A C E.



WHEN the late Lord William Bentinck, Governor-General of British India, had his celebrated interview with the late Maharaja Runjeet Singh, at Roopur, he was accompanied by Henry Thoby Prinsep, Esq., then Secretary of the Indian Government (since one of the Members of Council), who, in 1834, published, at Calcutta, a volume containing a History of the Political Life of Runjeet Singh, and an account of the origin of the Sikh Power in the Punjab. The circumstances under which this work was prepared were stated by Mr. Prinsep in his Preface as follows:—

“The British Government, has, since 1808, been the protector of the Sikh territory lying between the Sutluj and Jumna: its officers have been appealed to for the adjustment of all disputes between the chiefs and

their neighbours or dependants, and the references to the Supreme Council of Government at the Presidency are frequent, and involve questions of great intricacy, making the management of our relations in that quarter by no means the least troublesome part of the business submitted to its decision. Lord William Bentinck was led by the perception of this circumstance to seek from the officers employed in the management of Sikh affairs some general information as to the history and condition of the chiefs, and the habits and customs of the sect. Accordingly, when preparing for his journey to Hindustan, in 1830, he called upon Captain William Murray, the Political Agent at Umbala, who had for more than fifteen years been employed in conducting our relations with the Sikh chiefs on the British side of the Sutluj, for a Report upon the subject. Captain Wade, the Assistant at Lodiana, who had latterly been intrusted with the subordinate charge, under the Resident at Delhi, of the correspondence with Runjeet Singh, was similarly called upon, and both officers submitted voluminous Reports, con-