

A

PERSONAL NARRATIVE

OF A JOURNEY TO THE

SOURCE OF THE RIVER OXUS

BY

THE ROUTE OF THE INDUS, KABUL,
AND BADAKHSHAN,

PERFORMED UNDER THE SANCTION

OF THE

SUPREME GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

IN THE YEARS 1836, 1837, AND 1838,

BY

LIEUT. JOHN WOOD,

OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY'S NAVY.

LONDON:

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1841.

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TO
LIEUT.-COLONEL SIR ALEXANDER BURNES, F.R.S.
OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY'S SERVICE.

SIR,

I know not to whom the following pages can with more propriety be dedicated, than to yourself. To you I owe, in a great measure, the opportunities which enabled me to collect what matter they contain; and, it is under the sanction of your opinion that this Personal Narrative is now given to the Public.

I trust I may also be permitted to avail myself of this opportunity to record my respect for your conduct as a servant of the public, and my affectionate esteem for your character as a man.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN WOOD.

P R E F A C E.

THE following pages embody a slight sketch of my journeyings whilst employed under Sir Alexander Burnes on his late mission to Afghanistan. It may be therefore superfluous to add, that the doings of this mission and the events to which it has given rise have no part in this *Personal Narrative*. As the nature of my duties led me over ground hitherto but little visited by Europeans, it occurred to the liberal-minded officer at the head of the mission that a brief account of my wanderings might not be unacceptable to the public. On this suggestion I have acted, and rough notes written on the spot are here filed at the ends and twined into the Narrative form.

The Afghan character has been fairly drawn and their country well described by the Hon. Mountstuart Elphinstone, Forster, Conolly, and Burnes. If information on these subjects be sought, recourse