

FROM LONDON TO BOKHARA

AND

A RIDE THROUGH PERSIA

‘Let the real full truth be known, and as much be told as can be told with prudence and discretion; and then, no harm but good will be done.’

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A RIDE THROUGH PERSIA

BY

COLONEL A. LE MESSURIER, R.E.

AUTHOR OF

'KANDAHAR IN 1879, 'THE GAME, SHORE AND WATER BIRDS OF INDIA'



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TO
LIEUTENANT-GENERAL ANNENKOFF
UNDER WHOSE DIRECTION
THE TRANSCASPIAN RAILWAY WAS CONSTRUCTED,
THIS BOOK IS INSCRIBED.

P R E F A C E.

THE journey terminated at Bombay on December 9, 1887, and by the end of that year my notes were printed and placed at the disposal of the Viceroy. Lord Dufferin, a few days before he left India, granted me permission to publish my narrative, and so it happens that much of my story relates to events which now are a year old.

I have endeavoured to follow the excellent advice given years ago by Mountstuart Elphinstone when criticising the manuscript of Burnes's travels, 'that a narrative of this kind should be in the highest degree plain and simple.'

In referring so constantly to the writings of others, it is as much for the purpose of expressing my own delight in their labours, as of recalling the authors and their works to notice.

In dwelling so long on the particulars of places