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THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF

THE EAST INDIA COMPANY;

A HISTORY OF INDIAN PROGRESS.

BY JOHN WILLIAM KAYE,

AUTHOR OF "THE HISTORY OF THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN."

"THERE ARE MANY KINDS OF WAR AND MANY DEGREES OF HEROIC RENOWN,
BUT THE HIGHEST PRAISE IS DUE TO THOSE WHO, BY THEIR VICTORIOUS ARMS,
HAVE OPENED NEW SCENES FOR THE CIVILISATION OF MANKIND, AND OVER-
COME BARBARISM IN SOME IMPORTANT PORTION OF THE WORLD."

HANKE'S "Civil Wars and Monarchy in France."

LONDON:

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MDCCLXIII.

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TO THE
CIVIL AND MILITARY SERVICES
OF
THE EAST INDIA COMPANY
THIS VOLUME,
RIFE WITH RECORDS OF THEIR GOOD DEEDS,
IS
RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED.

London, April 25, 1853.

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P R E F A C E.

I OFFER this volume to the public as a contribution to the general stock of information relating to India and her affairs—information which, in the present juncture, it is very desirable to possess. It contains much that is scattered over a great number of printed books, and much besides that is not to be found in any printed books. It will be seen that it is written almost entirely in a narrative form—that there is little of the disquisitional and controversial in it—and that I have not attempted to elucidate the great question of the future government of India, except by throwing on it such light as is derived from illustrations of the past.

Perhaps, indeed, the volume may best be described as a series of historical illustrations of Indian government, arranged with some regard to completeness and uniformity of design, but not at all pretending to the dignity either of a perfect history of the internal administration of India, or a finished picture of Indian Institutions. The exigencies of time and space have compelled me to pass hastily over the consideration of many matters, of the interest and importance of which I am fully sensible, and in one or two instances I have been necessitated to throw into an Appendix papers illustrative of certain topics of inquiry of which I had intended to treat in the body of the work. The subject of Indian Administration, indeed, is so vast; it branches out into so many different channels; and the materials at my disposal for its illustration have been so ample, that the

more I have drawn upon them the further off I have seemed from their exhaustion.

In dealing with a subject of such magnitude, the writer has the choice of two courses which lie before him. He may either so compress his materials into a narrow compass as to divest his fasciculus of facts of all living interest and external grace. Or he may select certain prominent topics of discourse, and illustrate them with that copiousness of detail which, by limiting its range of inquiry, necessarily subtracts from the encyclopædic value of the work, but imparts a vitality to it which I cannot help thinking extends its utility by increasing its attractions. I have followed the latter course. I believe that the reading public is less instructed than it should be on Indian subjects, because it has been less interested than it might have been, if writers had taken more pains to appeal to the common sympathies of mankind. I am not insensible of the value of statistics, and, indeed, I have dealt somewhat largely in them; but it is principally by representing men in action that the writer on Indian affairs must hope to fix the attention of the public.

It is mainly to anticipate any objections which may be raised on the score of omissions, that I make these remarks regarding what may be called the machinery of my work. Of the purpose and tendency of the work itself I have spoken elsewhere; and shall now only add the expression of a hope that, in consideration of what I have done, I shall be forgiven for what I have necessarily left undone in such a volume as this.

London, April, 1853.