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INTRODUCTION.

EVERY large city in the world has had a humble origin, and risen to greatness by the gradual development of its trade and industries. The beginning of Rome, for example, was a small settlement on the Palatine Hill on the Tiber; the beautiful city of Paris has risen from an insignificant little island in the river Seine, and even the origin of mighty London "is now lost in oblivion."

Bombay is no exception to this. Originally an obscure little island inhabited by primitive fisherfolk, it was but a "poor little island," as Pepys described it, when ceded by the Portuguese. Its subsequent rise and growth has been full of vicissitudes, but in spite of numerous misfortunes, such as invasions of enemies, attacks by pirates, internal dissensions and intrigues, "pestilential fevers," famines, fires, financial crises and plague, Bombay through steady development of its industries and export trade, has now risen to the present position as the "Second City in the Empire."

Visitors will find Bombay interesting in many ways. Historically it dates from the times of Arrian and Ptolemy; geographically it consisted of seven little separate islands less than two hundred years ago; while ethnologically its cosmopolitan communities afford a deeply interesting study. The hills, suburbs and foreshores provide many pleasant excursions to botanists and zoologists, while archæologists find the city and its neighbourhood to be places of entrancing attraction. Its industries afford a great field of activities to capitalists; town planners find it an ideal place for the exhibition of their energies, while some of its public health problems have baffled the greatest sanitarians and engineers. Lastly to artists it reveals innumerable beauties of landscape, figure, seascape and architecture.

Such is Bombay. This handbook is a small attempt to give the visitors to the Sixth Session of the Indian Science Congress a brief description of the city, its history, climatology, geology and botany together with a short account of the various objects and places of interest in and around it. To those who have so liberally responded to appeals for contributions, the writer begs to express his deep indebtedness and cordial thanks.

D. A. TURKHUJ.

BOMBAY, *January* 1919.

—“ 1926 ”—

The Hand-book of 1919 was an admirable production and it was, therefore, naturally desirable to retain the character of the book in its main form. But that was presentation of the Bombay of 1919. Things have changed considerably since and many of the important changes, that occurred in Bombay in the past six years in regard to its industry, education, art and civic life, have to be recorded. I was fortunate to secure fresh articles—they are marked with an asterisk—on various subjects written by authorities and to that extent the task of editing the book was very pleasant.

I beg to express my gratitude to all those who were kind enough to assist me in every respect. I wish the book turns out to be a fitting souvenir.

G. R. PARANJPE.

BOMBAY, *January* 1926.

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