

GENERAL REPORT

ON THE

OPERATIONS

OF THE

Survey of India

ADMINISTERED UNDER

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DURING

1908-09

PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF

COLONEL F. B. LONGE, R.E., A.D.C.

SURVEYOR GENERAL OF INDIA



CALCUTTA

GOVERNMENT PRINTING, INDIA

1910

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Major James Rennell, F.R.S.,

'The first great English Geographer'.



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James Rennell

Born near Chudleigh in Devonshire on the 3rd December 1742. Entered the Navy in 1756 and served with the expedition of the Duke of Marlborough to Brittany in 1758. Volunteered for service in the East Indies and was employed on Marine Surveys till 1764, when he went to Bengal and was appointed Probationer Engineer in Fort William. The Survey of the Delta of the Ganges and Brahmaputra, commenced in the same year under the orders of the Governor, Mr. Vansittart, and subsequently extended under Lord Clive and Warren Hastings to the remainder of Bengal, occupied him till his retirement, owing to ill health, in 1776, with the rank of Major. During the progress of this work he was severely wounded in a skirmish with a band of fanatic rebels, the Sunyasi Fakirs, in Northern Bengal. He was appointed "Surveyor of the East India Company's Dominions in Bengal" by Lord Clive on the 1st January 1767, with a staff of four Assistants:—Capt. Lewis DuGloss, Capt. John Adams, Lieut. Carter, and Ensign William Richards. On his retirement he settled in London, and devoted himself to the study of scientific geography. His chief publications were:—The "Bengal Atlas, containing Maps of the Theatre of War and Commerce on that side of Hindoostan", 1779; "A Memoir of a Map of Hindoostan", 1783; and "The Geography of Herodotus", 1800. He was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1781, received the Copley Medal of the Society in 1791, and the Gold Medal of the Royal Society of Literature in 1825. He died at the age of 88 on the 29th March 1830, and was buried in the Nave of Westminster Abbey.

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1908-09

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