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# THE LAND REVENUE OF BOMBAY

Rare section

A HISTORY OF ITS ADMINISTRATION, RISE, AND PROGRESS

4076.

BY

ALEXANDER ROGERS

*Bombay Civil Service (Retired)*

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## CONCLUSION.

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THE history of the Land Revenue administration of the Bombay Presidency, exclusive of the island of Bombay and Sind, has thus been brought down to the latest date available. It would have been more satisfactory to be able to trace the effects of the Revenue Survey settlements as a whole for their first entire term of thirty years, but many of these, especially in Kánara and in some parts of Gujarát, have only very lately been completed, and many years must consequently elapse before they come under revision. Enough has been written of them to show the general principles on which they have been carried out, and to set forth the improvement they have brought about in the resources of the State and the condition of the people, an improvement which has amply repaid the great expense of the operation during nearly seventy years. The work has been so thoroughly done that, with the most ordinary attention on the part of the Revenue authorities, there need never be any occasion for it to be done over again, or even amended. Unlike other surveys carried out previously in various parts of the country, its traces both in the records of Government and in the field must be permanent, for the boundary marks put up in the latter to distinguish occupancies are clearly shown in the village maps as well, and can therefore be identified at any time and kept in order. The actual possession of each Survey field or recorded share of the same can be traced back step by step by the aid of the Collector's books to the time of the Settlement, a continuous record of invaluable use to the Civil Courts in case of disputes arising in

future years. The advantages of the Survey tenure, as laid down by law, have been sufficiently explained in the course of this work not to require any further description here. They have, moreover, undergone the great test of time, and, as has been amply proved, have come safely out of the ordeal, and the reader can now judge for himself whether the remarks in the Introduction with regard to the beneficent action of the Revenue authorities in the Bombay Presidency have been justified or not.

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