

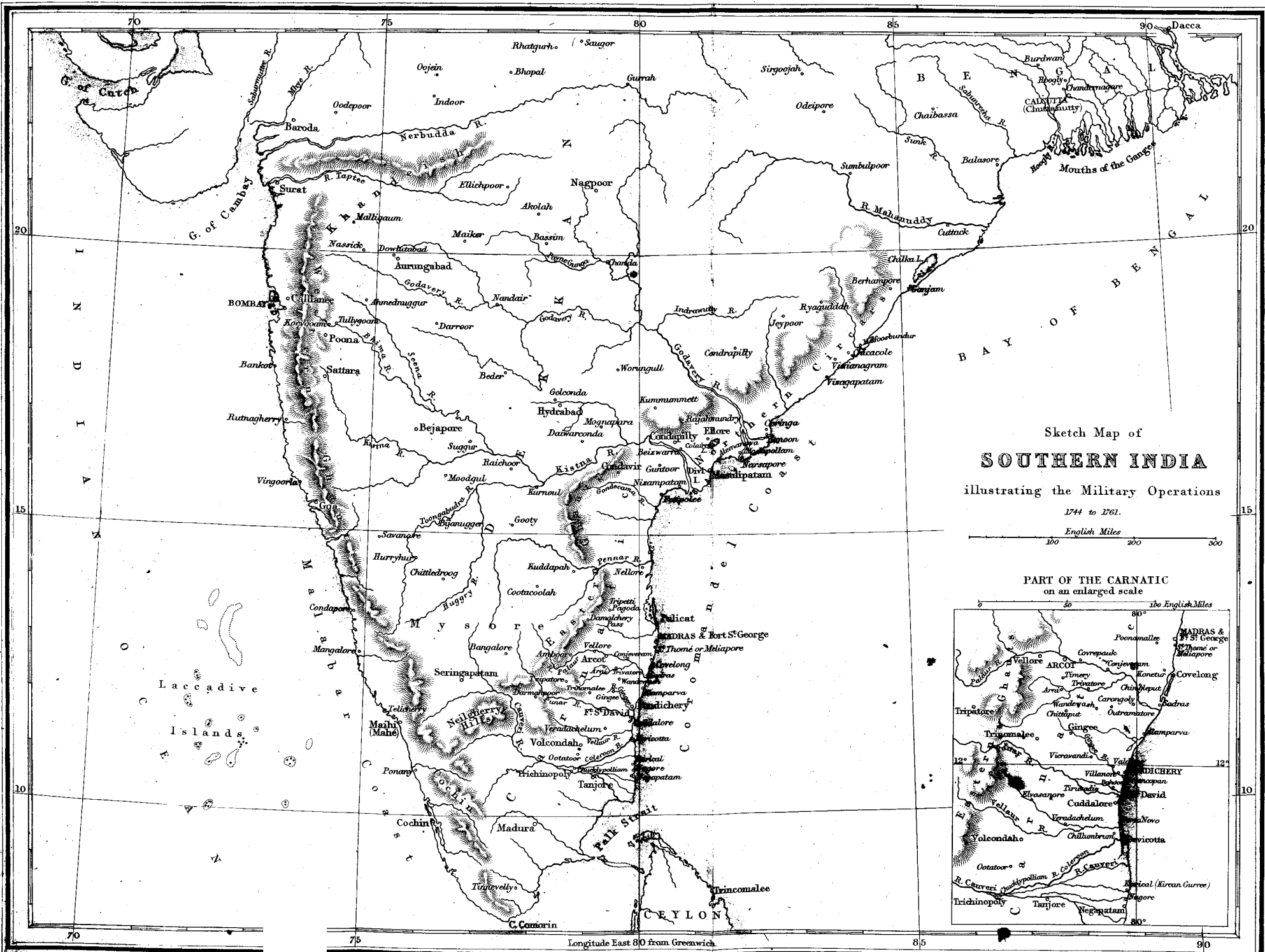
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**THE**  
**FRENCH IN INDIA.**

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HISTORY  
OF  
THE FRENCH IN INDIA

FROM THE FOUNDING OF PONDICHERY IN 1674  
TO THE CAPTURE OF THAT PLACE IN 1761.

BY

MAJOR G. B. MALLESON,

BENGAL STAFF CORPS;

SOME TIME IN POLITICAL CHARGE OF THE PRINCES OF MYSORE AND THE KING OF OUDH;  
AUTHOR OF 'ESSAYS AND LECTURES ON INDIAN HISTORICAL SUBJECTS' ETC.

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'On admire beaucoup et l'on cite souvent l'ANGLETERRE pour avoir résolu ce grand problème de gouverner, à quatre mille lieues de distance, avec quelques centaines d'employés civils et quelques milliers d'employés militaires, ses immenses possessions de l'INDE. S'il y a quelque nouveauté, quelque hardiesse et quelque génie politique dans cette idée, il faut reconnaître que l'honneur en revient à DUPLEX, et que l'ANGLETERRE qui en recueille aujourd'hui le profit et la gloire, n'a eu qu'à suivre les voies que le génie de la FRANCE lui avait ouvertes.'—INDE, par M. X. Raymond.

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1868.

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## DEDICATION.

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TO

THE REV. SIR CHARLES CLARKE, BART.

WORLINGHAM HALL.

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MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

A statesman and writer whom, as you know, I very much admire, has pronounced a dedication to be 'the most graceful offering of friendship.' Believing this to be a true definition, there is no one whom, in the Dedication of this Volume, I should prefer to yourself. For, throughout the literary exercise of which it is the fruit, I have been sustained and encouraged, not less by the recollection of the kindness which contributed so much to the enjoyment of my last visit to England, and of the character which won my affection and esteem, than by the conviction, that my efforts, however humble and insignificant, would, if worthily directed, at least meet your sympathy and approval.

I remain,

My dear Sir Charles,

Yours very sincerely,

G. B. MALLESON.

## ADVERTISEMENT.

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A COMPLETE and connected account of the doings of the FRENCH in INDIA throughout the period embraced in this volume has never yet been given to the world. The student and the soldier whose curiosity and whose interest may have been alike aroused by the outline of the deeds of Dupleix and of La Bourdonnais, of Bussy and of Lally, given in the pages of Mr. Mill's *History of India*, and who may have felt anxious to learn something more of the policy and aims of those famous Frenchmen, have hitherto been compelled to fall back for such information upon the voluminous work of Mr. Orme. Of the historical value of this work there can be no doubt. Mr. Orme was a member of the Madras Council and had access to all the Madras records, besides enjoying, as a contemporary, the opportunity of conversing with many of the actors of that stirring period. Of the feelings of the English in Madras, of the principles which animated their leaders civil and military, of the movements of their fleets and armies, his history is a most full and detailed, and, I believe, generally a faithful, record. Yet, with all this, Mr. Orme's work, judged even from an English point of view, constitutes rather a compendium of information for others to use, than a history which in the present day



would commend itself to the general reader. It is often diffuse even to prolixity, and brings into prominence actions not mainly affecting the current of the narrative, and such as in the present day would be interesting only to the student of individual character. At the same time, whilst it indulges in the fullest details regarding the exploits of the ensigns and lieutenants who assisted Clive and Lawrence in annihilating the schemes of Dupleix and Lally, it regards the French rather as accessories than as principals in the story, seldom entering at any length into the reasons of their military movements, never conveying to the reader any fixed idea of the policy by which the rulers of Pondichery were guided. Throughout the work, indeed, there is a natural but entire want of sympathy with French aspirations. Even Orme, therefore, full and explicit as he is regarding the doings of the English, would fail to satisfy the inquirer for a complete and connected account of the deeds of the French in India.

Nor is the omission supplied, so far as I am aware, by any French history. The most valuable of these that I have met with in my researches is the *Histoire des Indes Orientales* by the Abbé Guyon, published in Paris in the year 1744. The value of this work consists mainly in the long and copious extracts given by the author from the archives of Pondichery, and in the correspondence, also inserted, between M. Dumas and the Native Princes of India. The supplements to the memoirs of La Bourdonnais, of Dupleix, of Lally, of Bussy, of De Leyrit, of Moracin, and of many others, give at full length the official correspondence of the various periods. These, likewise, form an excellent basis upon which to found a history, but there are few who would take up such works for

amusement, or who would consider the trouble of wading through so many bulky tomes, all of them more than a hundred years old, compensated for by the information they might impart.

The void then undoubtedly existing, I have written this volume to supply it. Led, in the first place, rather accidentally, to examine the career of Lally, the interest of the subject induced me to look more deeply into the history of the settlement with which he was so prominently connected. To this study I have devoted most of my leisure moments during the past two years and a half. My labours have, however, all along been greatly stimulated by the conviction that I have been able to throw some new light upon a most interesting period. The story of François Martin, the founder of Pondichery, is, I believe, unknown to, at all events it has been unnoticed by, English historians. A new and, I am satisfied, a correct version is given of the quarrel between Dupleix and La Bourdonnais; the reasons for the conduct of the latter are fully set forth; and if this portion of the history be regarded as too overladen with detail, I trust it may be remembered that for a hundred years the historians of France and England have, in connexion with this very point, covered the memory of Dupleix with obloquy; and that charges so weighty, so sustained, and so long uncontradicted, are not to be refuted without full and sufficient proof. I trust also it may be found that the reasons which guided Dupleix in his policy, the relations of Bussy with the Subadar of the Dekkan, and the cause of the fall of Chandernagore, have been placed in a clearer and more intelligible light than heretofore.

In executing the task which I set myself, I have natu-

rally incurred many heavy obligations. I am anxious to express the great debt which I owe, in common with every other writer of the Indian history of that period, to Mr. Orme, the minute detail of whose work makes it invaluable to the historian. To the work of the Abbé Guyon, and to the various French memoirs to which I have referred, I am likewise greatly indebted. It is by means of these that I have been enabled to give the history of the period from a point of view entirely Indo-French, showing, I trust clearly, the plans and policy of the rulers of Pondichery. Colonel Lawrence's *Memoirs*, Mr. Grose's *Voyage to the East Indies*, Dr. Ives's *History*, and the *Seir Mutakherin*, have also been consulted. Amongst others, of more modern date, I may mention Colonel Wilks's *Southern India*, Captain Grant Duff's *History of the Mahrattas*, Professor Wilson's edition of *Mill*, M. Xavier Raymond's *Inde*, Baron Barchou de Penhoen's *Histoire de la Conquête de l'Inde par l'Angleterre*, and that most admirable, though, unfortunately, too little known volume, Broome's *History of the Bengal Army*. I take advantage of this opportunity also to express my obligations to the writer (unknown to me) of an article on 'Dupleix,' in the 15th volume of the extinct *National Review*, which not only displays ability and research of no ordinary character, but is also remarkable as being, so far as I am aware, the first attempt to do justice to that illustrious Frenchman. I beg also gratefully to acknowledge the courtesy of M. Bontemps, Governor of the French Establishments in India, and of M. Derussat, Chief of those Establishments in Bengal, in replying to the various questions with which I troubled them, and in forwarding to me extracts from the archives

of their respective seats of Government. Nor can I close this long list of obligations without expressing the deep sense I entertain of the encouragement afforded me in the prosecution of this work by Lord Ellenborough—an encouragement which mainly induced me to expand the original sketch of Lally into the history of his countrymen in India—as well as by my honoured friend, Sir Henry Durand, one of the Members of the Supreme Council of India.

I may add, in conclusion, that this work originally appeared, in separate parts, in the pages of the *Calcutta Review*, though it has since been thoroughly revised and indeed partly re-written. It was my wish, before offering it in a complete form to the English public, to submit it to the ordeal of the criticism of those, some of whom, from their long experience of India and their close acquaintance with its history, were thoroughly competent to pronounce an opinion as to its merits. If I may presume to draw any conclusion from the recorded opinion of the Indian press on the work as it appeared in parts, I shall have no reason to regret the act which I am now about to take upon myself—of presenting it to my countrymen as a whole.

G. B. M.

SINLA: May 24, 1867.

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# HISTORY

## HISTORY OF THE FRENCH IN INDIA.

### ERRATA.

Page 176, note, line 6 from top, *for* just arrived from England *read* just arrived from France.

Page 196, line 8 from foot, *for* he marched on that day at the head *read* he marched at the head.

Page 198, top line, *for* December 1 *read* December 17.

Page 227, note, foot line, *for* *pièces justificationes* *read* *pièces justificatives*.

Page 245, line 11 from top, *for* The army of Mozuffer Jung and Mahomed Ali *read* The army of Mozuffer Jung and Chunda Sahib.

Page 256, line 3 from top, *for* Chunder Sahib *read* Chunda Sahib.

Page 268, line 2 from top, *for* Subadar of the Carnatic *read* Subadar of the Dekkan.

Page 268, line 15 from foot, *for* Cape Cormorin *read* Cape Comorin.

Page 383, line 6 from foot, *for* Astruc detached *read* Astruc sent forward.

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