



MIRZA ABU TALEB KHAN.

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THE
TRAVELS
OF
MIRZA ABU TALEB KHAN,
IN
ASIA, AFRICA, AND EUROPE,
DURING THE YEARS
1799, 1800, 1801, 1802, AND 1803.

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF, IN THE PERSIAN LANGUAGE.

Translated by
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IN THE HON. EAST-INDIA COMPANY'S COLLEGE, HERTS.

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TO
THE MOST NOBLE
THE
MARCHIONESS of HERTFORD.

MADAM,

I FEAR I may be accused of presumption, in dedicating to your Ladyship a Work which may, at first sight, appear to be possessed of little literary value. It is to be considered, however, that the original is the production of a Native of the East, unacquainted with the sciences of Europe, whose only object was to inform and improve his countrymen, by a candid and simple narrative of what he saw, heard, and thought, during his Travels.

The remarks of such an observer, on the laws, manners, and customs of the different

countries of Europe, particularly on those of our own, can never be without their interest and importance to an enlightened mind: and I am therefore encouraged to hope, that your Ladyship, after making due allowance for the disadvantages of a translation, may be induced to honour them with your countenance and protection.

I have the honour to be,

Your Ladyship's most obedient

and devoted Servant,

CHARLES STEWART.

Hertford,

May 25th, 1810.

TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

I WILL not trespass on the time of the Reader, by any apology for introducing to him the following Work. The free remarks of an intelligent Foreigner, and especially of an Asiatic, on our laws, customs, and manners, when they are ascertained to be genuine, must always be considered as an object of liberal curiosity.

The Author of these Travels was so well known in London, in the years 1800 and 1801, under the title of *The Persian Prince*, and has so clearly related the principal incidents of his life in the introduction and course of his narrative, that it is unnecessary to enter further into his personal history in this place; and it only remains for me to give some account

of the Manuscript from which the Translation was made.

For several months after the Author's return to Bengal, he was without any employment; during which time he revised his Notes, and compiled his Narrative. He then employed several Katibs (writers) to transcribe a certain number of copies under his own inspection, which he distributed to his most intimate friends. One of these correct copies was presented by the Author to Captain Joseph Taylor, of the Bengal Artillery, who, in the year 1806, had a correct transcript taken of it at Allahabad, by Mirza Mohammed Sadik Moonshy; which copy he gave to Lieutenant-Colonel Lennon, who brought it to England in the following year, and from whom it came into my hands.

The Manuscript consists of three small octavo volumes, written in a neat hand;

which, for the satisfaction of any persons who may have doubts of its authenticity, will be deposited with Messrs. Longman & Co. Booksellers, for three months.

With respect to the Translation, I shall only say, that I have endeavoured to render it as literal as the different idioms of the two languages would permit: and, except in a very few instances, for which I trust I shall be pardoned by the Reader, I have not ventured to curtail or omit any part of the narrative.

The subjects so curtailed are; First, the poetical effusions of the Author, which, in the original, occupy a number of pages. Secondly, the long lists of his friends, at the principal places he visited. Thirdly, a dissertation on anatomy: and Fourthly, a long description of a garden hot-house. These are the only articles that have been omitted.

In some places, I have been under the necessity of transposing the Chapters, in order to preserve a connexion between the subjects ; an object little attended to by Oriental writers in general.

We have several books of fictitious travels, ascribed to natives of the East ; but I believe this is the first time the genuine opinions of an Asiatic, respecting the institutions of Europe, have appeared in the English language ; and, as such, I trust they will be received with proportionate interest by the Public.

I take this opportunity of returning my public thanks to Mr. Northcote, for the readiness with which he lent the Portrait, from which the Engraving of the Author has been taken.

C O N T E N T S.

INTRODUCTION.

AFTER thanksgiving to God, and praise of Mohammed, the Author details his reasons for publishing the account of his Travels. - - - - - VOL. I. 3—5.

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