

Works by Major W. SEDGWICK, R. E.

"LIGHT, THE DOMINANT FORCE OF THE UNIVERSE."

SHEWING

*WHAT LIGHT IS; WHAT ELECTRICITY IS;
AND WHAT LIFE IS;*

ALSO

HOW TO RECONCILE RELIGION AND SCIENCE.

Price, 7/6.

LONDON: SAMPSON, LOW, MARSTON, SEARLE, & RIVINGTON;
158, FLEET STREET.

"LIFE: THE EXPLANATION OF IT."

CALCUTTA: THACKER, SPINK & Co.

LONDON: W. THACKER & Co.

INDIA FOR SALE: KASHMIR SOLD.

CALCUTTA: W. NEWMAN & Co., Ld.



READY REMEDY
FOR
INDIA'S
EXCHANGE DIFFICULTIES:

BY

W. SEDGWICK, MAJOR, R.E.,

*Author of "Light, the Dominant Force of the Universe;" "Life: the
Explanation of It," &c.*

“* * * as regards India the depreciation of silver has been rather an embarrassment to the Government than a loss to the country. What it calls for, therefore, is mainly fertility of resource and a wise adaptation of means to ends.”—*Economist*, May 29th, 1886.

London:
SIMPKIN, MARSHALL & Co.

Calcutta:
W. NEWMAN & Co., L.D.,
4, DALHOUSIE SQUARE.

1886.

All rights reserved.

X61:57.2.M8

B6

CALCUTTA:
PRINTED BY W. NEWMAN & CO., LIMITED,
AT THE CAXTON STEAM PRINTING WORKS, 4, DALHOUSIE SQUARE.

291

PREFACE.

“The Government of India has not only to rule a great population but to turn a vast undeveloped estate to the best account.”—*British India and its Rulers*, by H. S. CUNNINGHAM, M.A.

Speaking broadly, it may be said that all our works in India bear this inscription—“no time to spare.” Is not this written clearly upon the face of a multitude of stereotyped Returns and Reports in which are buried every year facts of the liveliest interest, as would be plain enough if we had but time to look out for and disinter some of them? Is it not impressed deeply upon the face of works constructed after type drawings or type designs in a country where the conditions are almost infinitely various and scarcely any two districts absolutely alike?

We acquire provinces and apply one system of government and one system of taxation to all, having no time to spare for working out the details and watching the development of any other. For a like reason we construct in a country where all the conditions are un-English and where poverty is spread over a vast area and cheap transport the one thing essential our railways on the English system, which is suited to a country where wealth is compressed into a small space and everything must be the best of its

kind. We construct our irrigation works also on one system.

Irrespective of the great works which are needed, the amount of work to be done in a small way in opening up the country is enormous, while the details and the best way of accomplishing it are only to be learnt by the closest familiarity with the resources, condition and surroundings of each locality and with the habits and ways of the people. Moreover, full success can only be obtained by gaining the confidence of the people. But, how is time to be found for all this with present arrangements?

I have tried to show in "India for sale, Kashmir sold," that if we can find time to look closely into matters, we shall perceive that, in retaining the present disposition of our British troops in defenceless cantonments scattered all over the country, a disposition designed to meet the conditions obtaining in former times when rapid movements were impossible, and no railways were in existence to furnish the people with iron and steel in abundance for the manufacture of arms, we lose the advantages which a system of railways offers in the way of enabling a small force concentrated in two or three impregnable positions, with arsenals and factories inside and thus self-contained and provided with a secure base, to hold securely a vast extent of country. We have in the fine Volunteer Corps now in existence at all the large railway centres throughout the country a force available to man in case of emergency the defensive works which

are needed to protect the workshops, stores and rolling-stock of the railways, and thus give time for the arrival of a regular railway corps to take over the working of the railways. There is therefore nothing to prevent us from arranging to concentrate.

With our British troops thus concentrated in healthy situations and ready for immediate action, we should make it clear to all, and especially to the native mind, that we were prepared for every emergency, and thus inspire that confidence which is so necessary to the development of the country and at the same time grapple at all points with the Russian Difficulty now plainly impending, though perhaps about to take a form quite different from that against which we are preparing.

I shall try now to show that we shall further perceive that in India, with its great agricultural population crowded into certain districts and with great tracts of good land in other districts lying idle for want of population, and great rivers unutilized for want of irrigation works, there are potential stores of wealth in abundance at present locked up, but at the same time ready ways and means of getting at these stores of wealth and thereby enriching not only ourselves but perhaps also in course of time the whole of the Eastern World and at the same time disposing of the present Exchange Difficulties.

If, indeed, our present difficulties—namely the Exchange and the Russian Difficulties, with which I have

dealt in these two pamphlets—force us to look into these matters, they will assuredly prove blessings in disguise.

CALCUTTA ;

17th August, 1886.