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BARODA INTRIGUES

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BOMBAY KHUTPUT;

BEING AN EXPOSITION OF THE FALLACIES, ERRONEOUS STATEMENTS, AND
PARTIAL QUOTATIONS, RECENTLY PROMULGATED BY

MR. LESTOCK ROBERT REID;

IN A

“LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE DAILY NEWS.”

BY

LIEUTENANT COLONEL OUTRAM, C.B.

Late Resident at Baroda.

PRINTED (*for private circulation,*) BY

SMITH, ELDER, & CO., 65, CORNHILL, LONDON.

1853.

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PREFACE.

THE Letter to the Chairmen of the Honorable Court of Directors of the East India Company, placed at the commencement of the following pages, explains the circumstances under which they were written. It will also suggest an explanation of the fact that four-fifths of the present Pamphlet have been in print for many weeks.

Conscious of his own literary imperfections, the Author has freely availed himself of the readily accorded aid of several of his friends; but for all that is stated in the following pages he, and he alone, is responsible.

TO

J. RUSSELL ELLICE, ESQ. AND MAJOR OLIPHANT,

CHAIRMEN OF THE HONORABLE COURT OF DIRECTORS OF THE
EAST INDIA COMPANY.

ORIENTAL CLUB, June 15th, 1853.

SIRS,

I respectfully solicit your acceptance of the accompanying printed document, containing a refutation of certain statements and insinuations to my prejudice, promulgated by Mr. Lestock Robert Reid, late of the Bombay Civil Service, in a Letter addressed by him to the Editor of the Daily News.

Soon after the publication of that Letter, I intimated to Mr. Reid my intention to publish a vindication of myself from its allegations. But the representations of several friends to whose judgment I deemed it my duty to defer, induced me for awhile to forego my original intention. They urged—and it appeared to me with much reason—that only those who had already studied the Parliamentary Papers relative to Baroda, were likely to peruse the effusions either of Mr. Reid or

myself; and that no one who *had* studied the Parliamentary Papers would deem a reply from me necessary

There were, however, others entitled to my respectful attention, who held that I should act unfaithfully to myself, and to those interests of which I was formerly the official guardian, and which I can never view with indifference, if I failed to meet Mr. Reid's Pamphlet with a full and satisfactory refutation. In conformity with their views—which were identical with my own—I resolved on printing. And being solicitous to avoid aught that could possibly be construed into disrespect to my Honorable Masters, I solicited the permission of the Court of Directors to search their records, with a view to carry out my resolution with certainty and precision. Free access to the Record Room of the India House was promptly accorded; but I was informed that the Honorable Court could not *officially* sanction or give their countenance to the *publication* of a controversial work on official topics. This intimation I conceived to imply that the Honorable Court did not desire to interfere with my individual liberty of action, in a matter closely affecting my personal feelings. And those who at first dissuaded me from replying to Mr. Reid, taking the same view, not only ceased to urge their dissuasions, but encouraged me in the prosecution of my task. They, however, suggested that my object would be effected, and at the same time a token of my respect to my Honorable Masters be afforded, if, instead of *publishing* my reply to Mr. Reid, I simply submitted it

to the Chairs and the Court, and such friends as had kindly taken an interest in my own case, in its relations to the subject of Mr. Reid's Pamphlet.

Influenced by these representations, I have completed, and now beg respectfully to submit to you, my reply to the statements affecting myself, contained in Mr. Reid's Letter, and as I could not expect you to read it in a manuscript form, I have put it into print: solely, nevertheless, for the purpose of vindicating my own character as a public servant, and of placing the service to which I had the honour to belong, in a light due to itself, and I hope useful, when occasion may require, to the public, both Indian and English.

I have the honor to be,

SIRS,

With unfeigned respect,

Your obedient humble servant,

JAMES OUTRAM, Lieut. Colonel,

Late Resident at Baroda.