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**THE**  
**ENGLISH IN WESTERN INDIA.**

THE  
ENGLISH IN WESTERN INDIA;  
BEING THE  
HISTORY OF THE FACTORY AT SURAT,  
OF BOMBAY,  
AND THE SUBORDINATE FACTORIES ON THE  
WESTERN COAST.

FROM THE EARLIEST PERIOD UNTIL THE COMMENCEMENT OF  
THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

DRAWN FROM AUTHENTIC WORKS AND ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS.

BY  
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ONE OF THE HONOURABLE COMPANY'S CHAPLAINS IN THE DIOCESE OF BOMBAY,  
AND A VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE  
ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

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SECOND EDITION, REVISED.

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LONDON:  
SMITH, ELDER AND CO., 65, CORNHILL,  
BOMBAY: SMITH, TAYLOR AND CO.

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1856.

*[The Author of this Work reserves the right of authorizing  
a Translation of it.]*

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## PREFACE.

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THE following pages will not, it is hoped, be thought uncalled for, as they fill an hiatus in Indian History. They contain facts which have been hitherto buried in old Manuscripts or in such printed works as are not accessible to many persons. It has been thought that when such are given for the first time to the world, they should be clothed, as far as possible, in simple and unadorned language. They may thus form a groundwork for those whose object is philosophical inquiry, and to trace the progress of Anglo-Indian civilization.

The various authorities have been carefully examined, accurately quoted, and a diligent attempt has been made to estimate their true value. First in importance are the Records of Government, permission to consult which was conceded with liberality, and accepted with gratitude. Next in importance comes Bruce's Work, which is simply an analysis of those Records. The third place must be assigned to writers who have

consulted those Records, and made use of them to a limited extent;—such are Orme, Macpherson, Milburn, Grant Duff, and Kaye. In the fourth class are personal narratives, such as those of Herbert, Roe, Fryer, Terry, Ovington, and Alexander Hamilton. These have different degrees of authenticity, which we must determine in various ways. There is no reason to question the truth of their accounts, when they declare that they were eye-witnesses of the facts which they record; but when their information was gained at second hand, we know that they were liable to be imposed upon. Hamilton especially had a particular bias, and was a prejudiced, although probably an honest man. The books of least importance in the compilation of this little work have been standard histories; for they are not drawn from original sources, and sometimes their facts are squeezed into a shape which best suits their writer's purpose, or is most ornamental to his pages.

In searching original Manuscripts, the object has not been to note down facts which have already appeared in the pages of authentic writers. That would have consumed much time, with no other result than the correction of a few and unimportant mistakes. The aim has simply been to supplement histories, and to record circumstances which had been concealed from observation through the neglect of inquirers, a low estimate of their value, or timidity in exposing nude and ugly truths.

Bacon has broadly stated it as his opinion, that “a



mixture of a lie doth ever add pleasure;" and that although truth may be as much valued as a pearl, which shews best by day, it will never rise to the price of a diamond, which shews best in varied lights. This hint appears to have been taken by some modern historians, who have converted history into romance, and not merely set off, but disguised facts with ornaments of imagination. Perhaps, however, some sober-minded readers will be satisfied with knowing, that as the writer of the following Chapters cannot offer the attractions of such authors, so neither has he been led away by their peculiar temptations. He has not endeavoured to walk on the stilts of fancy; but has been satisfied with the secure footing of plain dealing and truth.

One circumstance to which his attention has been obligingly drawn may be here noticed. The troops which Sir Abraham Shipman brought with him from England (see page 111, &c.) formed the Honourable Company's First European Regiment, and are at this day represented by the gallant Fusiliers. It appears that two Regiments had been raised in England. One was sent to Tangier, and when that place was abandoned, having returned to England, obtained infamous notoriety as "Kirke's Lambs." This body of men is now represented by the Second or Queen's Regiment. The other Regiment, which was raised in 1638, afterwards comprised the European officers and soldiers who are mentioned in this work. When Bombay was transferred to the Company, only ninety-three soldiers

were living of the five hundred which had left England; but few as they were, these must be regarded as the Corps which has since gained so many laurels in various parts of India.

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