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*INDIAN LIFE*



# INDIAN LIFE

Religious and Social

BY

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London

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To

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL GEORGE CHESNEY,

R.E., C.B., C.S.I., C.I.E.

AUTHOR OF "INDIAN POLITY," ETC., ETC.

MILITARY MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF THE VICEROY OF INDIA,

This Volume is.

WITH PERMISSION, INSCRIBED,

AS A TRIBUTE OF ADMIRATION AND RESPECT,

BY HIS OBLIGED AND OBEDIENT SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.

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## PREFACE.

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HAVING seen a great deal of India, from the Vale of Kashmir to the tropical uplands of Ceylon, from the historic borderland of the Indus to the forest-covered banks of the Brahmaputra, having resided in each of the Provinces of Northern India from Assam to the Punjab, and having done my best to understand the character and intellectual condition of the people of the country, I trust the sketches of Indian life which I have embodied in this volume may prove acceptable to readers who take an interest in the *two hundred and fifty millions* of Hindus and Muham-madans in India, so frequently alluded to in contemporary writings.

Of the inner life of a people who adhere to the rigid rules of *caste*, and keep their women in seclusion, it is not, perhaps, possible for an alien to form a just opinion; and this difficulty certainly exists in regard to the entire upper and middle classes of the Indian world, whether Hindu or Muslim. But the common people, more free and open in their domestic arrangements, afford better opportunities for observation, and I have not neglected the chances which

have come in my way of gaining an insight into the mode of life and habits of thought of the humbler ranks of the community. In Part II. of this volume I have recorded, from personal knowledge, many particulars connected with the somewhat peculiar domestic life of the lower orders, which may help English readers towards accurate conceptions regarding the lives and ideas of many millions of men and women in British India.

J. C. O.

LONDON,  
10th January, 1889.

# CONTENTS.



## PART I.

	PAGE
I. YOGIS AND MAHATMAS, THE SAGES OF INDIA ...	11
II. EXPERIENCES WITH FORTUNE-TELLERS ... ..	48
III. A STRANGE CULT; THE WORSHIP OF ZÁHIR PIR	66
IV. THE ARYA SAMAJ AND ITS FOUNDER ... ..	86
V. THE LAHORE BRAHMO SAMAJ ... ..	125
VI. A BRAHMO WEDDING ... ..	133
VII. TWO VISITS TO THE GOLDEN TEMPLE OF THE * SIKHS ... ..	138
VIII. THE CENOTAPH OF MAHARAJAH RUNJEET SINGH, THE LION OF THE PUNJAB ... ..	152
IX. "BAZAAR_GUP," OR RUMOURS OF THE MARKET- PLACE ... ..	168
X. AT THE PLAY: THE NEW INDIAN THEATRE ...	183
XI. THE MOST SACRED SPOT ON EARTH; OR, BUDDH GAYA AND BUDDHISM ... ..	200



## PART II.

	PAGE
I. INTRODUCTORY NOTE ... ..	245
II. WITCHCRAFT, DEMONIAL POSSESSION, AND OTHER POPULAR SUPERSTITIONS... ..	247
III. OLD FAKEERAH AND HIS CONJUGAL TROUBLES ...	277
IV. BHUJNU AND CHEROKEEAH, OR MAN AND WIFE.	295
V. THE SLAVE GIRL ... ..	302
VI. THIEF-CATCHING ... ..	309
VII. A YOUTHFUL SAINT ... ..	312
VIII. THE DAUGHTER-IN-LAW ... ..	315