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THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS IN INDIA.

From Juganath to the Himalaya Mountains.

BY

WILLIAM TAYLER, ESQ.,

RETIRED B.C.S., LATE COMMISSIONER OF PATNA.



WITH 100 ILLUSTRATIONS BY THE AUTHOR.

VOL. I.

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To the Wife

WHO,

FOR FIFTY-ONE LONG YEARS,

IN PROSPERITY AND ADVERSITY,

HAS EVER BEEN

THE JOY AND COMFORT OF MY LIFE,

THIS BOOK

IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED

BY

WILLIAM JAYLER,

RETIRED B.C.S.

1881.

P R E F A C E .

AN autobiographer always apologises, or ought to apologise, to the public.

My apology in the present instance is, that my life in India, instead of being monotonous and uninteresting, as the life of a Bengal civilian usually is, has been varied and eventful. I have visited almost every station in Orissa and Bengal, have not only endured the depressing heat of the plains, but have enjoyed the glorious scenery and exhilarating climate of Darjeeling, Simlah, and Nepal; have served in all departments of the State, including that of Postmaster-General, and have been more than once in danger of my life. In the Mutiny of 1857, I was the Commissioner of Patna, and as a reward and recompense for saving the most important province of Bengal, was dismissed from my appointment with disgrace; resigned the service to avoid starvation, and afterwards, when in an independent position, passed eight years replete with adventure and excitement. I may perhaps add that I went out to India in 1829, as a lad, and returned after thirty-eight

years as an extensive grandfather. And last, though not least, I have kept illustrations of all I saw or did during my life, from elephants to tooth-picks.

To this imperfect catalogue of causes, I may add, with no ordinary gratitude, that during these long years of my varied existence, I have made and still retain a large body of sincere and noble friends, the value of whose attachment has been rendered more precious by the contrast which it has on several occasions afforded to the petty jealousy of a small band of interested opponents, and the unfeeling persecution of official tyranny.

Here, then, is my apology, briefly sketched, but sufficient, I hope, to justify my egotism, disarm the criticism of the captious, and secure for my presumptuous production the candid consideration of its readers.

To those of my friends who have kindly assisted me with reminiscences, dates, and half-forgotten facts, I would here wish to offer my sincere and grateful thanks, and to all those who have shown their kind appreciation of my work, by subscribing to the publication, my best acknowledgment for the encouragement which their names have afforded.

W. TAYLER.

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