

BUREAU OF EDUCATION, INDIA

SELECTIONS

FROM

EDUCATIONAL RECORDS

PART II

1840-1859

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Photo-Mech. Dept., Thomason College, Roorkee.

THE HON'BLE Mr. JAMES THOMASON,
Lieutenant Governor of the North Western Provinces, 1843-53.

Frontispiece.

PREFACE.

A general introduction to this series was prefixed by Mr. Sharp to the first volume. No explanation is therefore needed for the appearance of the present publication.

The period covered by the documents in this volume extends from 1839 to 1859. This was a period of great educational activity in India during which provincial systems of education were gradually evolved. Its close was appropriately marked by the issue of two important despatches, one from the Court of Directors in 1854 and one from the Secretary of State in 1859, outlining a general educational policy for India and establishing provincial Departments of Education to carry out that policy. It is interesting to note that the second of these despatches is one of the first, if not the very first, communications addressed to the Government of India by the Secretary of State.

In one respect the task of the compilers of this work has differed from that of the editor of the first volume. Of the earlier period few records exist; the work in the present case, on the other hand, has consisted of extracting from the numerous documents and records in existence those essential to a proper understanding of the course of events. It has been thought desirable to connect these records by historical summaries. But I must repeat the warning given by Mr. Sharp in his preface to the first volume that this series does not purport to be a history, it only aims at providing historical materials for those interested in the early development of education in India. It is the documents themselves which are of importance and not the connecting matter.

In the task of compilation I have been ably assisted by Mr. G. R. Kaye, Curator, Bureau of Education, and by Mr. G. C. Sarkar of the Bengal Education Service, late officiating Curator. The latter was chiefly responsible for the collection of the original materials and for much of the preliminary work of preparation, while my thanks are due

Preface.

to Mr. Kaye not only for the scrupulous accuracy with which he has checked all the details and references, but also for the preparation of the appendices and index, which should add largely to the value of the publication.

The main body of the work consists of letters, despatches and other original records printed in the form of appendices to each chapter and numbered consecutively throughout the work in Arabic numerals. References to the documents will be found in the text of each chapter. The text itself contains only such matter as appeared to me necessary to explain the sequence of the appended documents. Extracts from original records which occur in the body of the text have been separately numbered in Roman numerals. The original sources from which the documents and extracts have been obtained are shown in two appendices at the end of the volume. A bibliography and short biographical notes on the principal characters mentioned have been added. The inclusion of a full text of the despatches of 1854 and 1859 and of the University Acts has added appreciably to the bulk of the volume, but the records of education in India between 1839 and 1860 would be incomplete without them.

J. A. RICHEY.

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