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# Paramountcy & Indian States.

( A Study of Merger Plan )

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# Paramountcy & Indian States

## A Study of Merger Plan



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# Paramountcy and Indian States.

## A STUDY OF MERGER PLAN.

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### Preface.

It is easy to dismiss this booklet as propaganda for the Princes. The writer, however, presents it to the general public in the confident hope that if they come to know the other side of the picture, it will be all to the good of the country. He also believes that they will realise that the Rulers of Indian States have been more sinned against than sinning. It is not practical politics to suggest, as some of our Leaders actually do, that the 650 and odd Indian States, with their long history and contribution to the development of Indian culture and industry should be liquidated.

The War-time Government of India has become a veritable ocean and lack of co-ordination is discernible in every sphere of its activities. It is, therefore, not surprising that in its relations with the Indian Princes, the Political Department of that Government is pursuing a lonely furrow unmindful of the larger issues involved in its so-called policy of tendering benevolent 'advice' to Princes. This booklet is an attempt to show the incongruities of the situation and aims at impressing upon all concerned the dangers of rushing matters which have, for reasons best known to the Crown Representative, been allowed to rest for the last 90 years or so. "Hasten Slowly and Avoid Pitfalls" is its theme

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## Conclusion.

"Representation, audience and decision" are the three main pillars of British Rule in India. Whether it is an executive or semi-judicial order, there is appeal against every decision. Even if a man is to be sent to the gallows, there is a procedure and law. Even if he is to be disgraced from the Army, there is a special ceremony which has to be gone through. The Political Department of the Government of India is, however, a law unto itself and does not apparently believe in such formalities, convinced as it seems to be with the righteousness of its 'cause' and the infallibility of its judgment. In its dealing with smaller States it is uncompromising and inexorable for it knows that nobody will raise a hue and cry, as after all, it feels, they are principalities euphemistically described as States.

"The demands of the Political Department on small states will put to shame those of the most firebrand political agitator in British India", said a Minister of an Indian State to the writer of this booklet one day in the course of informal talks. "We receive so many quarter-sheets each day purporting to emanate from the Crown Representative, that we sometimes wonder if the Crown Representative has ceased to function

as Governor-General. I have my doubts whether the Crown Representative ever knows what is being issued in his name", he added.

There are black sheep in every herd but it is highly wrong and unjust to paint all Rulers with the same brush. For years the Political Department has followed a policy of *lessaize faire* and has suddenly chosen to wake up from its self-imposed stupor and is rushing at break-neck speed with scant consideration for the feelings of Rulers. This booklet will not have been written in vain if it succeeds, even though partially, in awakening in that Department a sense of proportion and an element of considerate treatment.

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