

THE STORY
OF
AN INDIAN UPLAND



THE TRIAL OF LUCK DURING THE SOHRAE

Frontispiece
(see page 256)

THE STORY
OF
AN INDIAN UPLAND

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WITH 20 ILLUSTRATIONS AND A MAP

AND AN INTRODUCTION

BY

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AS A SMALL TOKEN
OF AFFECTION AND GRATITUDE
FOR MUCH KINDLY HELP AND ENCOURAGEMENT
THIS BOOK
WAS ORIGINALLY DEDICATED TO
THE LATE LORD NORTHBROOK
IT IS NOW ONLY GIVEN TO ME TO INSCRIBE IT
TO HIS MEMORY

PREFACE

THESE pages, written for the most part in camp among the Santals on the borders of the Santal Parganas, make no claim to give an exhaustive account of the Santals and the Paharias, and of the country they have made their own. In the attempt to present only so much concerning this little-known part of our Indian Empire as may be of interest to the general reader, to whom the Blue Book and the official report make no appeal, much that is of interest solely to the ethnologist and the specialist has been necessarily omitted. But if the following pages in some measure faithfully portray this interesting land and its peoples, as they have been and as they are to-day, they will have fulfilled their mission. The lack of interest shown by the average Englishman at home in India and Indian affairs, long proverbial, is now happily becoming a thing of the past, and the kind reception accorded to 'Chota Nagpore, a Little-

known Province of the Empire,' leads me to hope that a similar interest may be evinced in 'The Story of an Indian Upland.'

To Sir WILLIAM WARD my thanks are due for the photograph of the Hon. JOHN PETTY WARD, and to the Rev. Dr. CAMPBELL of Pokhuria, who so constantly placed his great knowledge of the Santals at my disposal. I find it hard to acknowledge adequately the debt I owe to the late Sir WILLIAM HUNTER, my first guide into the fascinating land of Indian history and ethnology, and to the Hon. Mr. RISLEY, who, in spite of his heavy official duties, has so generously given me his help.

GOBINDPUR, MANBHUM,

CHOTA NAGPORE : *October 29, 1904.*

INTRODUCTION

WE are sometimes told by the omniscient journalist that the Indian civilian of to-day has lost interest in the country and the people, and devotes his scanty leisure to counting the days till he can retire on pension. It needs only a book like this to demonstrate the futility of the charge. For the various observations recorded so pleasantly by Mr. Bradley-Birt are the common heritage of his brother officers all over India. A long series of monographs, gazetteers, district histories, settlement reports, and the like bears unmistakable testimony to the same sympathy with the people, the same spirit of research, the same capacity for appreciating the picturesque aspects of an Indian landscape, that have inspired this fascinating book. Of the value of the subject-matter of this half-forgotten literature so good a judge as Sir Henry Maine wrote many years ago in terms of the highest approval; and now that India promises to

play a larger part on the stage of international politics, Mr. Bradley-Birt's most readable sketch of the history, the scenery, and the inhabitants of a single Indian district may lead the politician, or even the general reader, in England to seek for fuller knowledge of the bewildering miscellany of countries, races, religions, and languages that makes up the Indian Empire. He will find that knowledge where our foreign critics now seek it in the official writings to which I have referred.

Concerning the merits of the peculiar system of administration that was introduced into the Santal Parganas after the Rebellion of 1856, there is room for some difference of opinion. Old Santal officers have assured me with pride that 'the writ of the High Court did not run in the Parganas,' as if this negative blessing were of itself sufficient for the well-being of a patriarchal Arcadia where people did what they were told, and it would have been bad manners to appeal. One of my friends indeed went so far as to mature a scheme for the better government of India, the leading feature in which was the division of the entire country into districts of a thousand square miles (after the pattern of a Santal sub-district) each under the

absolute sway of a single Englishman, who was never to be transferred and never to get an increase of pay. On idealists of this type argument was wasted; one could only take refuge in guarded allusions to Utopia and Comte's 'Politique.' On the west of the Barakar River we of Chutia Nagpur, with plenty of Santals and other wild people of our own to look after, did not think so highly of the methods of the Parganas. We settled our tribal rent questions—some of them very big ones—without any special law; and on one notable occasion, when the Santals had been inflamed to the point of overt rebellion by a miracle-working devotee, we quieted them down by a sort of Socratic dialogue tempered by whisky and cigars, while their brethren in the Parganas only a few miles away were burning bungalows and cutcherries, and generally making themselves unpleasant, and two regiments of the Indian Army were marching around to keep the peace.

It would be waste of space to pursue the comparison further. Both systems—theirs and ours—were the outcome of similar conditions. Both represented the revolt of the official conscience against the *laissez faire* style of

administration which the Permanent Settlement, as originally interpreted, imposed upon Bengal. Each was brought about by a peasants' war, and each serves to demonstrate the incurable defects of a system which expects a British officer to administer a district efficiently without a field survey, without a record of the cultivators' rights, and without a village agency to keep the record up to date. Had these things existed neither the Bhumij Rebellion of 1833 nor the Santal Rebellion of 1856 would ever have taken place. The district officers would have known what was going on, and in matters of this kind knowledge is the one thing essential.

H. H. RISLEY.

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I

AUGUSTUS CLEVELAND

Singularly little information is to be obtained concerning Augustus Cleveland apart from his work in India. I am indebted for many of the following facts to Mr. William Foster, of the India Office.

Cleveland was the son of John and Sarah Cleveland, and was born on September 19, 1754, being baptised at St. Martin-in-the-Fields on October 16 of the same year. In the baptismal certificate the name is spelt Cleveland, and the same spelling is observed in his petition to the East India Company, but he was generally known throughout his Indian career as Cleveland. He was appointed a Writer for Bengal on November 16, 1770, upon the nomination of a director named Frederick Pigou. His securities were John Cleveland, of Savile Row, and Lewis Ginguer, of Fulham, Esquires, the former probably being his father. He is said to have been a cousin of Sir John Shore, afterwards Lord Teignmouth, which might account for his choosing the Company's service as a career. My efforts to obtain a portrait of Cleveland have been unsuccessful, and have led me to believe that none exists. When the India Office, Whitehall, was built, the list of persons to be commemorated

by relief portraits included his name, but another was finally substituted for his on the ground, I believe, that no likeness could be obtained to work from.

With the help of a manuscript list of services of Bengal civilians in the India Office, the following brief summary of Cleveland's Indian career has been compiled :—

- 1771. July 22, arrived in India as Writer.
- 1772. Assistant in Select Committee Office.
- 1773. Assistant to the Collector at Rajmahal.
- 1776. Factor and Assistant at Bhagalpur.
- 1779. Collector of Bhagalpur.
- 1782. Also Judge of the Adawlat.
- Died January 13, 1784.

II

THE SANTAL SEPTS AND SUBSEPTS

The Santals were originally, according to popular tradition, divided into twelve septs, of which eleven only remain, one having entirely disappeared. Each sept, again, is divided into subsepts, of which the number is supposed to be twelve, though a glance at the following list, for many of the names of subsepts in which I am indebted to the Rev. Dr. Campbell, of Pokhuria, will show that the number varies considerably.

Sept Kisku. Subsepts Nij Kisku, Garh Kisku, Ok' Kisku, Obor Kisku, Manjhi khil Kisku, Naeke khil Kisku, Son Kisku, Aq Kisku, Badař Kisku, Biřol Kisku, Sada Kisku, Paři Kisku, Jabe Kisku, řika Kisku, and Katwa Kisku.

Sept Hásdak'. Subsepts Nij Hásdak', Cil Bindha Hásdak', Bořoar or Bondwar Hásdak', Keřwar Hásdak', Jihu Hásdak', Kuhi Hásdak', Sada Hásdak', Obor Hásdak', Kára gujia Hásdak', Kahu Hásdak', Sák Hásdak', Naeke khil Hásdak', Rok' lutur Hásdak', Bedwar Hásdak', and Kunda Hásdak'.

Sept Murmu. Subsepts Nij Murmu, Sada Murmu, Obor Murmu, Manjhi khil Murmu, Naeke khil Murmu, Bitol Murmu, Garh Murmu, Badař Murmu, Ok' Murmu, Lat' Murmu, Jihu Murmu, řika or řilok Murmu, Kuřam Murmu, Gajar Murmu, Copiar Murmu, Poņđ Murmu,

Boara Murmu, Handi Murmu, Kolha Murmu, Tuti Sarjom Murmu, Samak' San Murmu, Oara Murmu, Munda Murmu, Jugi Murmu, Kađa Murmu, Turku lumam Murmu, Sau Murmu, and Powar Murmu.

Sept Hembrom. Subsepts Nij Hembrom, Manjhi khil Hembrom, Naeke khil Hembrom, Sada Hembrom, Biłol Hembrom, Gua Hembrom, Gua soren Hembrom, Obor Hembrom, Badař Hembrom, Garh Hembrom, Handi Hembrom, Sole Hembrom, Thakur Hembrom, Lat' Hembrom, Datela Hembrom, and Kuari Hembrom.

Sept Marndi. Subsepts Nij Marndi, Goda Marndi, Manjhi khil Marndi, Naeke khil Marndi, Rot Marndi, Rok' lutur Marndi, Obor Marndi, Biłol Marndi, Sidup' Marndi, Jugi Marndi, Kađa Marndi, Khara Marndi, Garh Marndi, Kulkhi Marndi, Turku lumam Marndi, Sada Marndi, Khandā jogao Marndi, Tika Marndi, Pond Marndi, Keđwar Marndi, Buru beret' Marndi, Khandā Marndi, Babrē Marndi, Rupa Marndi, Jonok' Marndi, Miru Marndi, and Bhoso Marndi.

Sept Soren. Subsepts Nij Soren, Sidup' Soren, Sada Soren, Jugi Soren, Manjhi khil Soren, Naeke khil Soren, Biłol Soren, Ok' Soren, Manda or Badař Soren, Mal Soren, Jihu Soren, Sāk Soren, Bařchi Soren, Sada Sidup' Soren, Pond Soren, Khandā Soren, Obor Soren, Mâr Soren, Cehel Soren, Datela Soren, Rok' lutur Soren, Gua Soren, and Turku lumam Soren.

Sept Tuđu. Subsepts Nij Tuđu, Cigi Tuđu, Lat' Tuđu, Manjhi khil Tuđu, Naeke khil Tuđu, Sada Tuđu, Garh Tuđu, Jugi Tuđu, Dâtela Tuđu, Ok' Tuđu, Biłol Tuđu, Obor Tuđu, Baske Tuđu, Tilok Tuđu, Babrē Tuđu, Curuc' Tuđu, Kuđam Tuđu, Bhokta Tuđu, and Kharhara Tuđu.

Sept Baske. Subsepts Nij Baske, Manjhi khil

Baske, Naeke khil Baske, Biṭol Baske, Lat' Baske, Kuhi Baske, Ok' Baske, Munḍu Baske, Obor Baske, Bindar Baske, Sada Baske, Keḍwar Baske, Jihu Baske, Saru gaḍa Baske, Bhiḍi Baske, Sure Baske, and Hende Baske.

Sept Besra. Subsepts Nij Besra, Manjhi khil Besra, Naeke khil Besra, Kuhi Besra, Son Besra, Bindar Besra, Garh Besra, Tilok Besra, Biṭol Besra, Lat' Besra, Baske Besra, Ok' Besra, Obor Besra, and Kahu Besra.

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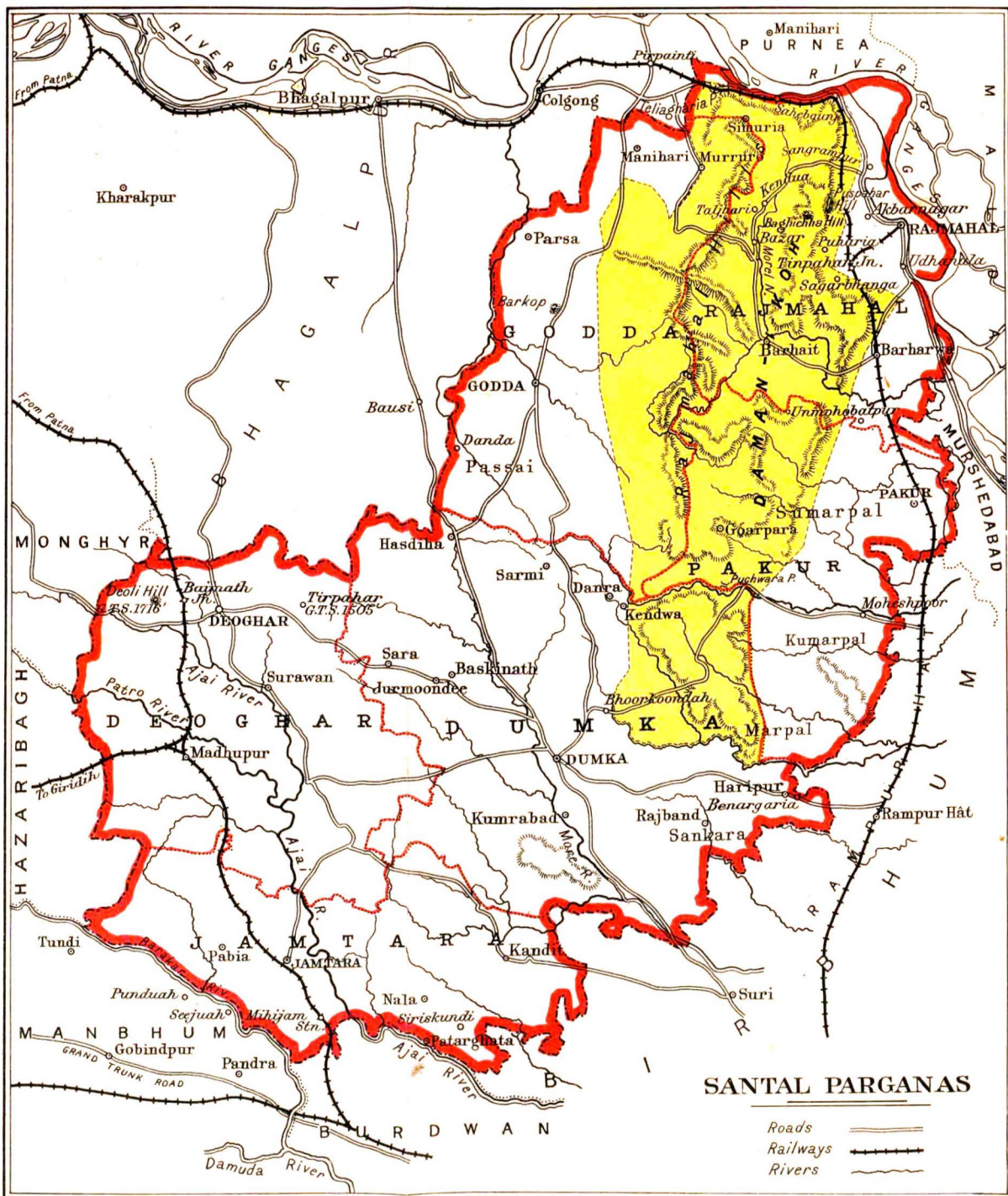
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