

**GAZETTEER**

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## PREFACE.

THE period allowed by the Punjab Government for the compilation of the *Gazetteer* of the Province was fixed at twelve months, within which time the Editor was to compile, publish in draft, revise, and publish in its final form a separate volume for each of thirty-one districts. It may readily be supposed that the scheme did not include the preparation of an account of the Province, brief but complete in itself, which, condensed from the more detailed district accounts into the limits of a single volume, might properly be called the Provincial Volume of the series.

At the same time it was found, as the compilation of the several district volumes went on, that there were certain subjects which could not properly be treated in them, and which it would be scarcely possible to notice at all, unless some portion of the series assumed a more or less general form. Geology could not be discussed intelligently save for the Punjab as a whole; the great railways and canals pass through many districts; some of our public institutions belong to the Province, rather than to the district in which accident has placed their buildings; and so forth.

Again, while the *Gazetteer* was in process of compilation, the Punjab Administration Report for 1882-83 appeared. Circumstances combined to give it a very special character. Not only did it include those sections of the report which are ordinarily written only every five years, but it was the first report for ten years in which these sections had been included. The report on the Census of 1881, moreover, had just been published. Accordingly much pains had been taken to render the more permanent portions of the Administration Report complete in themselves, and of lasting interest and value. These portions have been transferred almost bodily to the present volume.

Thus the Provincial Volume of the *Gazetteer* series is in no manner or degree a *Gazetteer* of the Province. It consists of a series of fragments, complete in themselves, so far as the necessary limitations of the work furnish, but covering only a small portion of the field which a complete *Gazetteer* should embrace. The *lacunæ* lie in the list of subjects treated, rather than in the treatment of individual subjects. The Volume will be a useful, and indeed a necessary, supplement to the district volumes of the series ; while some portions of it are not wholly devoid of general interest.

Acknowledgments are due to the following gentlemen, who have contributed the sections noted against their respective names :—

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The Volume, though completely compiled by the Editor, has been passed through the press by Mr. M. W. Fenton.

THE EDITOR.

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