

SELECTIONS FROM THE MINUTES AND
OTHER OFFICIAL WRITINGS
OF
THE HONOURABLE
MOUNTSTUART ELPHINSTONE
GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY.

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OTHER OFFICIAL WRITINGS*

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MOUNTSTUART ELPHINSTONE

GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY.

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EDITED BY

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TO

THE MEMBERS

OF THAT SERVICE WHO HAVE FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY,
WITH FIRMNESS AND EQUITY, ADMINISTERED OUR
BRITISH INDIAN EMPIRE,

I Dedicate the Official Writings

OF ONE OF THE ABLEST OF THE MANY ABLE MEN WHO
HAVE BELONGED TO

THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

PREFACE.

SOME years ago, when I was employed in looking over the valuable records in the Bombay Secretariat, the idea struck me that a compilation of the official writings of Mountstuart Elphinstone would prove of use, not only to those actively engaged in the administration of India, but also to the daily widening circle of men who take an interest in Indian questions. There is hardly an important problem connected with the government of India which has not been discussed by Mountstuart Elphinstone; and to the discussion of Indian problems he brought vast experience and a liberal and highly-cultivated mind.

In order to make the Minutes more intelligible to the reader, I have thought it advisable to prefix to them a short narrative of Mr. Elphinstone's life, and of the principal historical events connected with his career. In this memoir I have drawn largely upon the admirable memoir written by Sir Edward Colebroke many years ago, and published in the *Royal Asiatic Journal*.

My best thanks are due to Lord Elphinstone for the trouble he has taken in sending me a copy of the letters

of Mountstuart Elphinstone describing the battles of Assaye and Kirkee, which are now published for the first time. My acknowledgments are also due to Sir Richard Temple for supplying me with the Minute on Education, and also to Mr. Monteath, C.S., for his kind assistance in procuring me records from the Bombay Secretariat.

G. W. FORREST.

DECCAN COLLEGE, PUNA.

October 18, 1883.

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