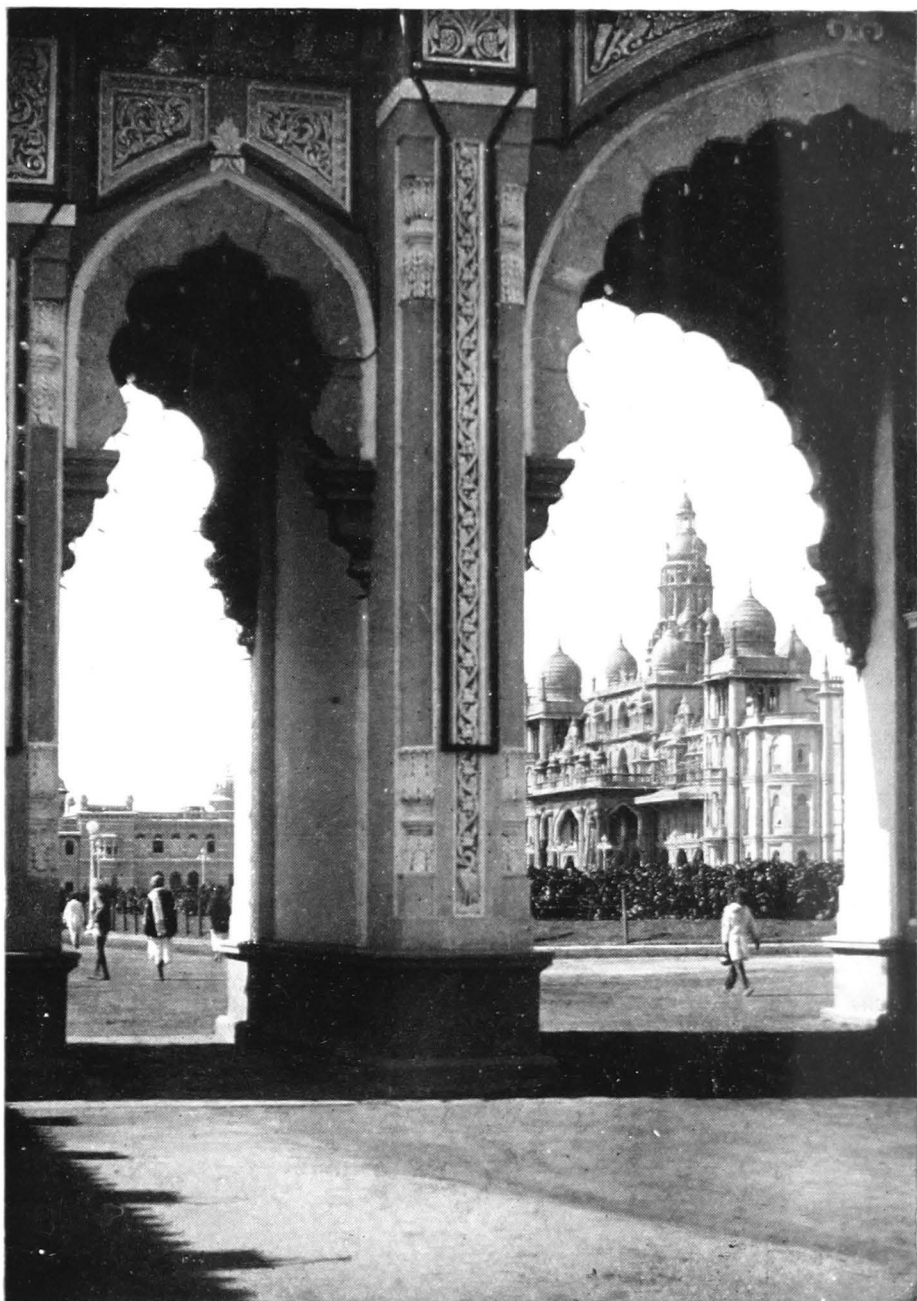


MYSORE CITY



THE PALACE, THROUGH THE NORTHERN GATEWAY
Frontispiece

MYSORE CITY

By

CONSTANCE E. PARSONS



1163 AHMED SHĀH RĀJA
JAGADĒV RĀJ SAN 2
THE MYSORE ROYAL SEAL

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*'For now and then, if a man
loves a city, he is rewarded
with a glimpse of her heart.'*

—H. V. Morton.

PRINTED AT THE
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MYSORE CITY

To
THE WOMEN AND GIRLS
OF MYSORE
WITH HAPPY MEMORIES OF THEIR
WIT AND WISDOM
COURAGE AND ENDURANCE
LOVE AND LOYALTY
THEIR GRACIOUS WAYS AND
STAUNCH INSPIRING FRIENDSHIPS

PREFACE

THIS guide—a handbook and not a library book—while making no claim to be a comprehensive *vade mecum* to the City, much less to the State of Mysore, is an attempt to lead the visitor—American, European, Hindu or Muhammadan—to points of interest readily reached in and from the City; an attempt to convey something of the glamour, undefined but very real, that Mysore has for her residents; and to open, with borrowed keys, a few doors into her past.

The author is sadly conscious of the shortcomings of a work touching on so much history, and so many legends, to whose sources access has been limited; a work written at a distance from the places described. Insomuch as it has been written with an earnest endeavour to be accurate and just, and to make plain the way of the visitor, the indulgence of readers is craved for errors and omissions.

My hearty thanks are due, and hereby offered, to H.H. the Maharaja of Mysore, for several books and pictures and for gracious permission to use the Palace Library; to Amin-ul-mulk Sir Mirza M. Ismail, B.A., C.I.E., O.B.E., for many historical and epigraphical works; to the Rev. Henry Gulliford, for the loan of several valuable old books on the history of Mysore and Seringapatam; to the Palace authorities in Mysore, especially Mr. M. Rama Rao, B.A., Assistant Private Secretary to His Highness, and Mr. C. Ramachandra Rao, B.A., B.L., Mokhtesar of the Palace Zanāna Samukha Department; to the Mysore Archæological Department, especially

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Of the many books consulted, I wish to make the fullest acknowledgment of indebtedness to the late Mr. Lewis Rice's *Gazetteer of Mysore*, his *Mysore and Coorg, from the Inscriptions*, and his *Epigraphia Carnatica*, and to his publishers, Messrs. Constable & Co., for permission to quote from them. Direct quotations from these books (described by a 'Failed B.A.' friend as 'monumental mines of learning') are indicated, but a very great number of the following pages owe something to one or other of those books. Indeed, to attempt to write anything on Mysore without their aid would be almost equivalent to attempting to write a book in English without using any word in the Oxford Dictionary.

Ootacamund, 1930.

C.E.P.

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- Annals of the Mysore Royal Family.* By Mr. B. Ramakrishna Rao, M.A.
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- The Journal of the Mysore Mythic Society,* Bangalore.
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