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SUPPLEMENTARY
DESPATCHES AND MEMORANDA,

OF

FIELD MARSHAL
ARTHUR DUKE OF WELLINGTON, K.G.

INDIA.

1797—1805.

EDITED BY HIS SON,

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON.

VOLUME THE FIRST.

LONDON:
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.

MCCCCLVIII.

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TO

THE QUEEN,

BY THE GRACIOUS PERMISSION OF

Her Majesty,

THESE VOLUMES ARE DEDICATED WITH THE MOST

PROFOUND RESPECT OF

HER MAJESTY'S

DUTIFUL SERVANT,

WELLINGTON.

APPELY HOUSE,
January, 1858.

P R E F A C E.

SINCE the appearance of the Despatches of Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington, the Editor has discovered many unpublished papers, and others have been placed at his disposal by the executors of Marquess Wellesley and of Lord Cowley.

These documents, derived from sources of the highest value, cannot fail to be useful and important for the elucidation of events in India during the period between 1797 and 1805.

Europe presents no parallel with Asia in warfare or in politics: Indian records can alone furnish precedents to guide and to warn us amid the difficulties which surround the prosecution of the present struggle, and which complicate the details of future legislation.

In examining the course of preparation for the siege of Seringapatam and the administration of Mysore by Colonel Wellesley, the conflicts with freebooters and jungle chieftains, the more extended contest with the leaders of the Mahratta confederacy terminating in the battles of Assaye and of Argaum, and the wiliness of Eastern diplomacy, the mind may derive lessons of practical wisdom for guidance in war and in peace, applicable to most times and circumstances,

but peculiarly so in the remarkable regions which form the subject of these documents.

Some of these papers the Editor ventures to hope may not be uninteresting as showing the military opinions, the civil training and personal feelings, the difficulties and the aspirations of the young soldier, whom seven years of unceasing activity in a country proverbially the nursery of soldiers, and the command of miscellaneous armies of Oriental dimensions, prepared for European renown.

TO THE READER.

It has been necessary to determine to which of the two Editions of the Duke of Wellington's Despatches these Papers shall form the supplement: each has distinctive merits; in both may be seen the skill, industry, and honesty of purpose of the late Colonel Gurwood; and the Editor sincerely regrets that he cannot have his assistance in this work. He feels, however, that he decides in accordance with the convenience of the reader by selecting the First Edition, of which there are a greater number of copies in the hands of the public than there are of the Second.

As some letters appear in the second edition only, they are republished, marked with asterisks.

Notes have been added when requisite for explanation or for giving interest to the text; together with a Map, on which it is hoped that the reader may be able to follow the movements of the armies.

An Index is also given, on the excellent plan adopted by Colonel Gurwood in the publication of the principal work.