

AN ACCOUNT
OF THE
PRESIDENCY BANKS

BY
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INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.



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PREFACE.

IT is believed that no complete account of the Presidency Banks has hitherto been published, though a few particulars of their early history are to be found in Cooke's "Banking in India", a book published in Calcutta in 1863, and long since out of print. The following memorandum deals with the history of the Banks from their institution to the present date, but as it is mainly based on Government records it is to be regarded rather as an account of their relations with the Government than as a complete narrative of their career. Through the courtesy however of Mr. W. D. Cruickshank, the Secretary and Treasurer of the Bank of Bengal, the writer has been enabled to considerably amplify the account of the senior Presidency Bank. In particular, the details given of the history of that Bank up to the year 1843 are derived almost entirely from selections from its records which Mr. Cruickshank kindly placed at the disposal of the Government of India. The writer warmly acknowledges the assistance he has thus obtained.

He also wishes specially to acknowledge the valuable advice and suggestions he has received from Mr. A. M. Lindsay, C.I.F., the Deputy Secretary and Treasurer of the Bank of Bengal. Though the complex questions with which Mr. Lindsay's name is specially associated are not discussed in the following pages, it has been a great advantage to the writer to have Mr. Lindsay's help in preparing a statement of the facts with which those questions are so intimately connected.

CALCUTTA ;

1st March 1900.

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