



# THE MUNDAS AND THEIR COUNTRY

BY

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With an Introduction

BY

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## PREFACE.

The object of this book is to supply the want of a history and ethnography of one of the most interesting of Chōtā Nāgpūr tribes. A history of the Mūndās is practically a history of the district they inhabit. Unfortunately, however, it is only from the beginning of British rule that we have perfectly reliable materials for a history of the people and their country. Of the importance of that history, Colonel Dalton in his *Descriptive Ethnology of Bengal* writes,—

“It cannot but be of moment to Indian statesmen and administrators to have, when dealing with such a people, a clear understanding of the nature of our relations with them, since they and the officers of the British Government first met, to possess an account sufficiently in detail of the circumstances under which they have been found so frequently in an attitude of hostility to a Government that certainly has no prejudices against them, but on the contrary is inclined to treat them with favour bordering on partiality.”

If the political history of the Mūndās and their country is of such interest to the statesman and the administrator, the ethnography of the people is of no less interest to the anthropologist and the sociologist.

I am painfully conscious that the present account is exceedingly imperfect. The greater portion of this book originally appeared as magazine articles written in

the intervals of business. This will partly account for some of the many defects which will doubtless be noticed in the book. If, however, the information conveyed in these pages is found to be of any practical use and serves to attract more competent workers to the field, it will not have been written in vain.

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RANCHI; } S. C. R.  
*The 14th March 1912.* }

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