

GENERAL REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATIONS

OF THE

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

For the Year 1873-74.

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ERRATUM.

Page 8, lines 13 and 14.

For "a certain limit on the increases henceforth to be imposed in revising past settlements," *read* "a limit on the increase henceforth to be imposed in revising certain past settlements."

PREFACE.

The General Administration Report for 1872-73, in accordance with the orders of the Government of India quoted in the preface, contained chapters of standard reference written up for several years to come. To these chapters were given red letter headings, so that they can be at once distinguished from the portions of the report which relate only to the events of that year. The physical and political geography of the Presidency is described in pp. 1—13 of that report; a historical summary, an account of the form of administration, of the land tenure of the civil divisions of British territory, the details of the last census, and an account of the tribes and languages of the Presidency will be found at pp. 13—142. The legislating authority is described in pp. 234—237, the general system of public instruction in pp. 527—531, literary societies in pp. 568—570, and ecclesiastical jurisdiction in pp. 576—584. In this volume a short statement of the population of the Presidency and of the several divisions, as enumerated on the 21st February 1872, precedes the account of the vital statistics and medical services of the year. With this exception the present report professes to deal only with the principal events with which Government were concerned and the measures taken during the period to which it relates. The explanation of some of these events and measures, however, required a description of matters of a permanent or comparatively permanent nature, and for a full understanding of others a reference will occasionally have to be made to the red letter chapters of the last report.

(ii)

PREFACE.

Nominally the report relates to the official year beginning 1st April 1873 and ending 31st March 1874, and generally speaking this has been taken as the period of review. But as the greater part of the information has to be collected from departmental reports and Collectors' administration reports, the latter and some of the former not relating to the official year, there are necessarily many exceptions to the rule. In many cases statistics and accounts are made up for the calendar year, in others for the land revenue year ending 31st July. And inasmuch as the completion of the report is for this and other reasons delayed till long after the close of the official year, while many measures of a general and important nature are decided upon in the interval, it has been deemed advisable to keep the review of these subjects as far as possible up to date.