Imperial Census of 1881.

OPERATIONS AND RESULTS IN THE PRESIDENCY OF BOMBAY,
INCLUDING SIND.

By J. A. BAINES, F.S.S.
OF THE BOMBAY CIVIL SERVICE

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PREFACE.

An extensive operation like the census entails, when undertaken in this country, an amount of supervision and a maintenance of instruction that would be deemed superfluous in the enumeration of a European population. In the former not only does the whole task of recording the required information fall upon the agency appointed to collect it instead of on the householder who is called upon to furnish it, but in the information itself there are certain features distinguishing it from that returned in the western community which require to be provided for some time before the actual census, or the results collected are sure to be wrong. Thus, though this Presidency is fortunate in the existence of an available staff of enumerators attached to nearly every village, and conversant with all the residents thereof, the very number of these agents necessitates a considerable amount of drilling and supervision before they can be expected to follow the prescribed instructions with complete uniformity. Whatever the degree of detail into which instructions of this special nature attempt to enter, it is futile to hope that they can be framed so as to meet every difficulty that is likely to occur. The solution of such cases, the care that the true purpose of a rule is not distorted by an unintelligent or narrow verbal interpretation on the part of an ill-educated enumerator, and the general provision for the carrying out of the operation in a thorough and efficient manner, are tasks which can only be accomplished through the energy and attention of District officials in the position and with the intimate local knowledge of Collectors, their Assistants, and the Māmsalās. The success of an enumeration is primarily due to their efforts, for without their cordial and active sympathy a general superintending agency is helpless. This aid has on the present occasion been universally given, and it is to them, then, in the first place, that those responsible for the census have reason to be grateful.

The provision of forms in this country, where there is ordinarily no reason for the maintenance of the machinery requisite for the collection of so large and various a supply, is a matter of great difficulty, but has been overcome by the exertions and excellent arrangements made at the Government Central Press by Mr. Kingsmill, the Superintendent. Throughout the operations of which these volumes contain the record, he has rendered every assistance, both by valuable suggestions on matters typographical, and by the trouble he has personally taken in furthering the progress of the work through the press, when both his plant and establishment were taxed to the utmost by the demands made upon them for the heavy statistical accompaniments to this review.

I have finally the pleasure of recording my personal recognition of the help I have received in my own share of the task from Mr. J. M. Campbell, Editor of the Provincial Gazetteer, who, with his Assistant, Rao Sahib Bhimbhai Kirparam, has supplied me with information regarding caste and other special questions not within the range of ordinary statistics. Also from Professor Forrest of the Deccan College, who took the entire charge of my duties whilst I was absent for three months at a time when the whole of the returns from the Feudatory States were either under revision, or in the press, and who has also assisted me in matters within his own special branch of study. The assistance rendered by the Superintendents of the three Branch offices of abstraction, Messrs. Plunkett, Virnadia, and the late Rao Bahadur Bangroo Bhimji, was throughout of the utmost value, as by their personal exertions alone could a large body of untrained clerks be drilled into punctuality and systematic work. The task that fell to Mr. Plunkett's share, namely the returns from nine Collectorate, was a particularly burdensome one, as it entailed the employment of an extremely large establishment. I have lastly to mention Mr. Ramchandra Kasar Bagmakar, whose services were placed at my disposal from the Revenue and General Departments of the Secretariat, and who for two years has been my personal Assistant. His continuous industry and intelligent appreciation of the special character of the work he had to deal with deserve my warmest commendation and thanks.

Poona, October 1882.

J. A. BAINES
CORRECTIONS.

Chapter I, page 3—Omit 46-53 opposite Upper Sind Frontier in Column 17 of the Comparative Table.

Chapter II, page 3, para. 9—The total area is not 133,669 square miles, but 124,122.

Chapter III, page 45, last para.—The total number of Hindus should be 12,806,582.

Chapter VI, page 107—In the second marginal Table read 'Swedish' for 'Sweden' in column for 'probable language.'

Chapter IX, page 168—The last entry in the tabular statement should be "504" not "50.".

Chapter IX, page 178—In the tabular statement the percentage of illiterate in the Panjab should be 93.74, instead of 94.19.
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