

Dhananjayrao Gadgil Library



GIPE-PUNE-016628

Rare section

ORIENTAL MEMOIRS.



VOLUME II.

Rare section

ORIENTAL MEMOIRS:

SELECTED AND ABRIDGED FROM

A SERIES OF FAMILIAR LETTERS

WRITTEN DURING

SEVENTEEN YEARS RESIDENCE IN INDIA:

INCLUDING

OBSERVATIONS

ON

PARTS OF AFRICA AND SOUTH AMERICA,

AND

A NARRATIVE OF OCCURRENCES IN FOUR INDIA VOYAGES.

Illustrated by Engravings from Original Drawings.

BY JAMES FORBES, F.R.S. &c.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR BY T. BENSLEY, BOLT COURT.

PUBLISHED BY WHITE, COCHRANE, AND CO. HORACE'S HEAD,
FLEET-STREET.

1813.

749.1

A813.2

16628

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER XVI.

Arrival of the English troops at Surat. . news of Ragobah's defeat on the plains of Arras. . his flight to Cambay and Surat. . interview with the nabob of Surat. . suspense of the English commander. . information of Ragobah's army in Guzerat. . resolution to proceed with the English detachment to Cambay. . Ragobah's Zenana. . interview with the chief and council of Surat at Domus. . reluctance of the Hindoos to undertake a sea voyage. . voyage from Surat to Cambay. . Gongwa. . Gosaings, their peculiar character. . tides in the gulf of Cambay; their rapidity and danger. . nutee-fish. . land at Cambay. . public visit of the nabob to Ragobah. . ceremonies on that occasion. . presents. . distant behaviour of Ragobah to the nabob, and marked approbation of Sir Charles Malet, the English resident . . dress of the princes on this occasion. . hospitality of the nabob. . Ragobah removes from the city to a summer palace. . public visit of the British commander and his staff. . ceremony of making presents in the east. . various particulars. English detachment encamp at Naranseer, near Cambay. . city of Cambay described. . fortifications . . duibar . . jumma . . mosseid . . Hindoo temple. . statue of Parisnaut. . magnificent Mahomedan tombs. . monkeys. . manufactures at Cambay . . their decline. . indigo plant, its cultivation and manufacture. . fertility of the country. . abundance of provisions. . wells. . cornelians, agates, and Cambay stones

.. character of the nabob, contrasted with that of Ragobah. . weakness and superstition of the latter. . narrow policy and cruelty of oriental courts. . noble character of the emperor Akber. . fatal effects of unlimited power, and want of moral obligation among the higher classes of society. . punishments at Cambay. . asylum of many Persian emigrants. . etiquette and ceremonies at an oriental court. . general effects of opium. . diversions of the nabob and nobles at Cambay. . literature. . sentiment of Omar on burning the Alexandrian library. . Pleasant situation of the English head-quarters at Narranseer. . beauty of the country. . game. . wild beasts and reptiles. . nabob's gardens. . heat in the English camp. . luxury of cool water. . roses and rose water. . news of Ragobah's army marching towards Cambay. . the English encampment at Narranseer struck ; the detachment proceed to Darah; the junction effected. . number and condition of our allies. . unpleasant encampment at Darah. . want of water. . delight of shady groves and living streams..... 5

CHAPTER XVII.

Account of a Mahratta army. . composed of various tribes and nations. . armour. . jemidars. . feudal system among the Mahrattas. . irregularity of the army. . encampment. . standards. . cavalry officers of distinction. . rich caparison of the horses. . chopdars and heralds. . titles of honour. . female names. . distinguishing characteristic of the officers. . character of Ragobah's chief officers. . magnificence of the Indian tents. . military character of the Indians. . business in the durbar tent. . superiority of English tactics. . variety of warriors. . Mahomedans from various countries. . Nujèeb. . Rajepoots. . Husserat troops. . different orders of cavalry. . pindarees. . bazar. . brahmins. . superiority of the lowest brahmin over a sovereign of another caste. . particulars of a brahmin feast. . Mahratta caste calculated for a military life. . pleasures and amusements in camp. . their wives and children. . conduct of a family on a march. . provender for cavalry. . dancing-girls, plunderers, and marauders of various denominations. . number of cattle. . horses in great variety. . elephants, for state and service. . their docility, affection, and sagacity

CONTENTS.

vii

..extraordinary anecdote of Ragobah's elephants..camels, their use in an Indian army..general description..Mahratta wealth and state..behaviour in expectation of a battle..girdle of battle, for their jewels and papers..hermaphrodites in camp..their number..distinguishing characteristics and occupation..improvement in Mahratta tactics..method of besieging a city..war rockets..... 39

CHAPTER XVIII.

Envoy to Ragobah's generals at Copperwange from the English commander in chief, the means of effecting the junction..march of the allied army towards the enemy..heat and fatigue..plague of flies..country destroyed..river Sabermatty compared with the Nile..first engagement with the enemy..retreat of the latter..field of battle..doubly shocking in a hot climate..action at Mahter..behaviour of the enemy..treatment of spies..patience of the Hindoos..Kairah a city in Guzerat..situation of the peasantry..Guzerat villages..country women ..amusements..adverse change by the war..action at Hyder-abad..catastrophe among our allies..combat between five brothers..council of war..march to the south parts of Guzerat..beauty of the country..march to Neriad..history of the Guikwar family..conduct of Futty Sching and Conda Row..Neriad laid under contribution..character of the Bhauts..their occupation, high estimation, and peculiar customs..refuse to pay their share of the assessment..massacre on the occasion..conduct of the brahmins..sacrifice of two old women..poisoned wells ..march to the plains of Arras..omens..superstition of the brahmins and astrologers on reaching Arras..battle on those plains..treachery of Hurra Punt..defeat of the enemy..loss in the English detachment..loss of the enemy..care of their dead, compared with horrid scenes on the field of battle..flying hospital..Ragobah's grant of thirty lacs of rupees, as a donation to the British army..names of Ragobah..the allied army cross the Myhi..pass of Fazal-poor..march to Baroche..beautiful and expensive well..beauty and fertility of the country..robbers and plunderers..Thevenot's remarks on that part of Guzerat. 69

CHAPTER XIX.

Encampment at Baroche. . description of that city. . silver mosque. . Bawrhan. . trade
. . Nerbudda river. . Hindoo women bathing. . discontent in Ragobah's army. .
desertion of his troops. . change of measures. . resolution to pass the rainy sea-
son in Guzerat. . march from Baroche towards Dhuboy, destined for winter quar-
ters. . extreme heat. . extract from Bernier. . night march. . confusion of the enemy
. . cause of not more effectually surprizing them. . pass of Bowa-peer. . encamp at
Thain Telow. . sudden setting in of the monsoon. . horrors of the night. . destruc-
tion of the camp, and death of persons and cattle by the tempest. . situation in
the commanding officer's tent. . rise of the water. . serpents, scorpions, and reptiles
in the village huts. . proceed one mile towards Dhuboy. . renew the march. . diffi-
culty of getting on the artillery. . winter quarters in Dhuboy. . description of that
city. . durbar. . adjutant bird. . encampment of Ragobah's army at Bellapoor. .
situation of the country. . journey to Bellapoor. . rise of the Dahder. . inclemency
of the weather. . females in Ragobah's zenana. . an intrigue with Esswant Row. .
his execution, and the death of his mistress. . inconveniences of a camp in the
rainy season. . miscellaneous remarks. . duplicity and chicanery of the Indians. .
comparison between the Asiatic and English character. . cruelty of brahmins. .
anecdote of their dire revenge. . division of castes. . Mahratta character. . scruples
of the Indians respecting food. . story of some palanquin-bearers, on that subject
. . anecdote of Narrain Doss. . water for drinking. . scruples concerning it. . ves-els
for cooling it. . mangos. . Mahratta tents. . illness of the writer. . conclusion of the
war. . subsequent fate of Ragobah. . Memorial relative to a Mahratta army, by
Sir Charles Malet. 111

CHAPTER XX.

Departure from Bombay to England. . regret on leaving India. . sail for the Cape of
Good Hope in the Betsy schooner. . Cape Bassos and the coast of Africa. . mer-
maids at Mosambique and Mombaz; various accounts of those creatures. . Melinda

CONTENTS.

ix

. . calms and unpleasant weather near the equator. . Cape St. Sebastian. . currents; storms near the Cape of Good Hope. . whales. . Bay Falso. . Simmons' harbour. . Isthmus between Table Bay and Bay Falso. . Dutch settlement at Simmons' harbour. . journey from thence to Cape Town. . carriages. . roads. . general aspect of the country. . protea. . account of the Cape. . climate, variation of the compass, and weather. . Table mountain. . contiguous mountains. . Cape town. . public and private buildings. . gardens; fruits, flowers, trees. . menagerie. . inhabitants of Cape town. . character of the men, inferior to that of the women. . disproportion of the sexes. . boarding houses. . cheapness of living. . fraud of the washerwomen. . price of different articles. . scarcity of timber. . beauty and variety of the plants. . distant farms. . character of the Dutch farmers; their cruelty and savage traits; some causes assigned for their degeneracy. . great stock of those farms. . vineyards . . Dutch government of the colony. . first establishment there. . character of the Hottentots. . Boshmen. . Caffraria. . wild animals at the Cape. . hippopotamus. . rhinoceros. . camelo-pardalis. . zebra. . monkeys. . orang-outang. . mongoose. . mcock. . birds in southern Africa. . ostrich. . cassowary. . Java pigeon. . secretary bird. . penguins. . African lions. . villas, gardens, and farms near Cape town. . variety and excellence of the fruits. . tent wine. . flowers and vegetables. . myrtle hedges. . Constantia and its vineyards. . grand mountain scenery near the Cape. . Voyage from thence to St. Helena. . beauties at sea. . St. Helena pigeons. . general appearance and geographical description of the island. . volcanic eruption. . fortifications. . town. . public and private buildings. . romantic appearance of the country, beauty of the interior vallies. . climate. . inhabitants. . first establishment of the English. . government. . cattle. . provisions, fruits and vegetables. . birds. . rose-linnets, Java sparrows. . trees and plants, indigenous and exotic. . fish. . sail for England. . unpleasant weather near the line. . anchor on the coast of Guinea . . unfortunate detention there. . sultry weather. . apathy of the crew. . meet a French vessel. . variety of fish on the gold coast. . Medusa. . sharks. . favourable winds. . Cape de Verd Islands. . Fogo. . Azores. . sudden tempest. . St. Mary's island. . arrival at Corke. . Cove of Corke. . departure from Ireland. . rapture on landing in England. . conclusion. 163

The author's return to India. . Sir William Jones's reflections on the oriental seas. . his high character. . the author's residence at Bombay. . departure for Baroche. . voyage to Surat. . journey from thence to Baroche. . Senassees. . wells. . illustrations of scripture. . Dr. Fryer's journey from Surat to Baroche. . general character of the Indians. . first establishment of a factory at Baroche by Sir Thomas Roe. . trade of the ancients with Barygaza, or Baroche. . Periplus. . dangerous tides in the gulf of Cambay. . modern cotton-trade at Baroche. . simplicity of the manufactures. . revenues of Baroche. . purgunna. . villages. . rich soil. . variety of crops . . animals. . birds. . fruits. . water-melon. . pomègranates. . oriental wines, sherbets, ice. . oils and perfumes. . tribe of Borahs, . Mahomedan fakeers. . penances of Indian devotees. . origin of the very severe austerities of the Hindoos. . l'Hospice of Grand St. Bernard. . Hindoo colleges. . Jattaras. . Succulterah. . expiation at Sucla-Tirtha. . Mahomedan festivals. . death of Houssain. . English villa near Baroche. . gardens. . irrigation. . address to a Hindoo Naiad. . serpents, guardians of Indian gardians, . reputed among the good genii. . visit of a Cobra di Capello to a young lady's bath. . ordeal trials by water and rice. . singular anecdote of a robbery. . mongoose. . ichneumon. . variety of snakes. . provisions at Baroche. . fish in the Nerbudda. . markets at Baroche. . price of labour. . lower classes of sòciety. . court of Adawlet at Baroche. . Jumna Musseid. . silver mosque. . mausoleum of Baba-Rahan. . history of that saint. . illustration of scripture respecting idols cast to the bats. . comparison between modern Hindoos and Mahomedans. . bigotry of the latter. . letter from Tippoo Suldaun. . dress of an oriental female. . rajhpoots. . origin of that high caste. . anecdotes concerning them. . their noble character. . extraordinary circumstance relating to a rajhpoot family in the Baroche purgunna. . singular exit of a Hindoo family at Bombay. . trial and execution of the superstitious Hindoo which occasioned it. . anecdotes from Lord Teignmouth. 211

CHAPTER XXII.

Excursion of a shooting party in Turcaseer, its uninhabited and savage forests. . wild
 'beasts. . monkeys. . bheels. . serpents. . locusts, their appearance and astonishing
 depredations. . locusts in Egypt. . whether quails or locusts the food of the Israelites
 in the desért. . feathered game of Guzerat. . Florican. . Culleim and Sahras. . anec-
 dote of a Sahras. . beauty of the baubul, or acacia. . curious instinct and sagacity
 in the baubul caterpillar. . further description of the baya, or bottle-nested spar-
 row. . instinct of various animals. . Addison's remarks thereon. . Raje-pipley hills
 . . Tiger mountain. . number of wild animals in those unfrequented regions. .
 size of the royal tiger. . various habits of tigers. . of hyenas and other beasts of
 prey. . rhinoceros, the unicorn of scripture. . wild hogs. . bears. . anecdote of their
 dreadful brutality. 271

CHAPTER XXIII.

Appointment to Dhuboy. . revenue of the purgunna. . peninsula of Guzerat. . reve-
 nues of that province. . general division of Hindostan. . city of Dhuboy. . inhabi-
 tants. . tank. . aqueduct. . festivity at the commencement of the rains. . sacred
 groves. . durbar. . mischievous monkeys. . curious anecdote of their agency. . setting
 in of the monsoon. . beauty and fertility of the surrounding country. . Powaghurr
 . . source of the Nerbudda. . story of Narmada from the Hindoo mythology. .
 address to Narmada. . ablutions of the Hindoos. . uncharitableness of the brahmins
 . . goddess of the poor. . recluse brahmins of Dhuboy. . missionaries from the
 church of Rome in India. . requests of the brahmins. . metempsychosis. . high privi-
 leges of the brahmins. . low estate of the Chandala caste. . cruelty of the Jaina
 brahmins. . account of the Jainas. . extraordinary penance of a brahmecary. . singu-
 lar anecdotes of religious Hindoos. . Mahomedan persecutions. . extracts from
 colonel Wilks's history of Mysore. . administration of justice in British India. .
 panchaiet, or Indiap jury. . contradictions in the Hindoo character. . distinction of

castes explained. . worshippers of Siva. . mystical poetry of the Asiatics. . comments by Sir William Jones. . sublimity of the book of Job. . walls and towers of Dhuboy. . western colonnade. . comparison between the porticos at Dhuboy and Pompeia. . city of Pompeia. . Roman villa near its entrance. . expense of the Dhuboy fortifications. . city gates. . gate of Diamonds, a general resort of the inhabitants. . the woman of Samaria. . anecdote of Angelica Kauffman. . lines on a celebrated picture by Guercino. . serpents at Dhuboy. . guardians to Nero. . story of the origin and magnificence of Dhuboy. . its destruction by the Mahomedans, and subsequent history. . custom of giving a new name to oriental cities. . Dhuboy surrounded by the Mahratta army. . official information relating to the purgunna of Dhuboy, Zinore, and Bhaderpoor. . their revenues, commerce and agriculture briefly stated. . the principal towns in those districts. . reason for inserting the preceding documents. 293

CHAPTER XXIV.

Administration of justice in Dhuboy. . trial by panchaut. . satisfactory to the Indians . . inefficacy of the English laws among the Hindoos. . sacred trees in the durbar courts. . ~~veneration of the Ceythians and other nations~~ for trees. . Hindoo religion supposed to be coeval with the descendants of Noah, who emigrated from higher Asia. . minutes in the Dhuboy courts of justice. . three extraordinary trials. . infanticide. . suicide common among the young Hindoo widows. . difficulty of preventing it. . singular petition in the court of Adawlet at Baroche. . remarks on the devils or genii mentioned therein. . general belief in their agency. . Dr. Fryer's account of them. . believed among the ancients. . Dr. Buchanan's opinion. . general remarks. . Lord Teignmouth's ideas of the Indian character. . five women put to death as sorcerers. . modes of ascertaining the guilt of the accused. . singular anecdotes. . necromancy of the Greeks. . demons in sacred and profane history. . persons possessed by them. . illustrated from Virgil and other writers. . hypothesis placed in a full and fair light from an extraordinary occurrence in the life of Dr. Townson. . letter from Lord North. . prayer of Dr. Townson on the subject of evil spirits. . remarks by archdeacon Churton, illustrative of this curious subject. .

CONTENTS.

xiii

hidden treasure common among the ancients; anecdote of Nero's credulity on that subject from Tacitus.. wonderful accumulation of Asiatic wealth.. guarded by serpents.. an extraordinary event of this nature in the Dhuboy purgunna.. one similar at Surat.. charmers of serpents.. susceptible of music.. sacred serpents.. anecdote of a naga, or hooded snake.. ordeal trials permitted at Dhuboy.. account of one.. general ordeals.. Dherna, a most extraordinary kind of arrest, and punishment.. Koor equally singular and cruel.. Hindoos buried alive.. story of a suttee, or a self-devoted Hindoo widow reclaimed.. ablutions and other customs in India.. salt the symbol and pledge of hospitality.. anecdotes to illustrate.....359

CHAPTER XXV.

General state of agriculture in Guzerat.. soil.. produce.. various crops.. cotton.. .. batty.. juarree.. bahjeree, and smaller grains.. shrubs and seeds for oil.. palma christi.. bhang.. tobacco.. betel.. poppy, opium.. sugar-cane.. double crops.. enclosures.. morning beauties in India.. best mode of preserving health.. Guzerat villages described.. tanks and wells.. allusions in scripture to living waters and verdant scenery.. hospitality to travellers in Guzerat.. peasantry.. right of landed property.. mode of cultivation, and appropriation of the produce.. massaulchee.. illustration of a parable.. washerman.. cullies, or farm-yards.. oppression of the zemindars.. Hindoo and Mosaic charities.. unfavourable traits in the brahmin character, and the Hindoo religion.. human sacrifices.. contrasted with Christianity.. reflections on this subject.. jaghires and different tenures in Guzerat.. scale of oriental despotism.. anecdote of cruel oppression at Tatta.. Mahratta cruelty in the sheep-skin death.. Dr. Robertson, on landed property in India.. extract from Wilks's History of Mysore.. Hindoo bill of sale of land.. lease of land at Baroche.. instructions on taking charge of Dhuboy.. minute respecting landed property, and farming in Guzerat.. remark from Bombay.. replication from Baroche.. conclusion in favour of leases to respectable farmers in India 405

CHAPTER XXVI.

Purgunna, capital and villages. . necessity of making good the roads and high-ways after the rains. . elucidates a passage of scripture. . another passage explained. . beauty of the country at the close of the rainy season. . morvah-tree, its valuable produce. . palmyra-tree. . sugar-cane. . bamboo. . curious banian-trees. . wells. . few wants of the natives. . simplicity of Indian manufactures. . curious method of ascertaining the weight of an elephant. . fraudulent deceptions in weighing cotton. . cunning and duplicity of the Hindoos. . banians at Surat. . excursions in purgunnas. . use and beauty of a summiniana. . interviews with oriental travellers. . beauties of Cachemire. . Bernier's account of Aurungzebe's journey to that province. . conversation with a travelling brahmin at Dhuboy; his account of British India under Mr. Hastings. . felicity of his government. . opposed to the misrepresentations in England. . address from Calcutta on his acquittal. . real character of Mr. Hastings. . his retirement at Dalesford. . description of the Hindoo mendicants. . visit of these naked philosophers at Bombay. . mode of getting rid of such troublesome companions. . anecdote of a brahmin destroying a microscope. . the difference between the Hindoo metempsychosis and christian philosophy. . vanjarrahs. . extraordinary feats of Indian jugglers. . Hindoo drama. . Arab and Scindian infantry in India. . hawking. . fighting rams. . hospitality of the Arabs. . power of music on antelopes in a spectacle at Poonah. . its effect on different animals. . destruction of monkeys by tigers. . cruelty of Bheels and Gracias. . presentation of a Gracia's head. . cruelty of the ancients in collecting the heads of their enemies, extending down to Hyder Ally. . death of an Indian female from Futty Sihng's seraglio. . Hindoo southsayers, and diviners. . wilds of Baderpoor. . royal sports of the Mogul princes. . description of a tiger-hunt by Sir John Day. . . . 449

CHAPTER XXVII.

Zinore purgunna. . town of Zinore. . groves and temples. . manufactures. . extreme fineness of Indian muslin in former times. . primitive simplicity of the natives. .

CONTENTS.

xv.

presents from zemindars. . brahmins of Guzerat. . jattaras, and religious customs near the Nerbudda. . history of Shaik Edroos, a leper. . pilgrimage to Mecca. . Hindoo deities. . Kama-deva, the god of love. . sacred bulls. . religious groves. . phallic deities. . shapeless statue of the Paphian Venus. . wretched state of the Chandalahs. . anecdote of swallowing a sword. . mud-palace at Zinore. . cruelty of zemindars. . amiable traits in the Hindoo character. . Bhauts and Churruns. . fortune-telling brahmins. . three extraordinary anecdotes of prophecies fulfilled, after predictions by a celebrated soothsayer. . reflections on these singular relations. 501