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T R A V E L S
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$$DURING

THE YEARS1780, 1781, 1782, \& 1783.
BY WILLIAM HODGES, R. A.
LONDON:
PRINTED FOR THE, AUTHOR:AND SOLD BY 1. EDWARDS, PALL-MALL.
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## P. R EFACE.

THE intimate connexion which has fo long fubfifted between this country and the continent of India, naturally renders every Englifhman deeply interefted in all that relates to a quarter of the globe which has been the theatre of fcenes highly important to his country; and which, perhaps, at the moment when he perufes the defcription of it, may be the refidence or the grave of fome of his deareft friends.

It is only matter of furprize, that, of a country fo nearly allied to us, fo little 'ीhould be known. The public is, indeed, greatly indebted to the learned labours of gentlemen, who have refided there; for the information which they have afforded concerning the Laws and the Religion of the, Hindoo tribes; as well as for correct and well digefted details of the tranfactions of the Mogul government. But of the
iv. PREFACE.
face of the country, of its arts, and natural productions, little has yet been faid. Gentlemen who have refided long in India lofe the idea of the firf impreffion which that very curious country makes upon an entire franger: the novelty is foon effaced, and the mind, by a common and natural operation, foon directs its views to more abftract fpeculation; reafoning affumes the place of obfervation, and the traveller is loft in the philofopher.

To fupply, in fome flight degree, this hiatus in the topographical department of literature, is the immediate object of the following pages. It will, I flatter myfelf, not be difagreeable to my readers to be informed, that they confirt of a few plain oblervations, noted down upon the fpot, in the fimple garb of truth, without the fmalleft embellifhment from fiction, or from fancy. They were chiefly intended for my own amufement, and to enable me to explain to my friends a number of drawings which I had made during my refidence in India, fome of which accompany the prefent publication. The apology is trite; but in this cafe its truth, and the refpectability of the name to which I refer, mult plead my excufe......it was owing entirely to the influence and perfuafion of my moft juftly efteemed friend, Henry James Pye, Efq. Poet Laureat, that thefe obfervations have been fubmitted to a tribunal, which I have ever regarded with awful refpect......the Public.

While I acknowledge my heart-felt obligations to one friend, it is not confiftent with my prefent feelings to omit the kind attentions of another. My learned friend, Dr. Gregory, by his perufal and revifion of my manufcript, contributed greatly to leffen my apprehenfions of that ordeal to which I was about to commit myfelf; and thourgh he infifts upon my ftating, that his correetions were almplt entirely verbal, yet I cannot but be confcipus, that, without them, the work would have appeared in a fill more imperfegt ftate.

After all, I am aware that I ftand in need of every candid allowance on the part of my readers. It is evident that the fludies abfolutely requifite to any degree of proficiency in a liberal art, and the practice of that art afterwards as a profeffion, can leave but little leifure for the cultivation of literature; and perhaps my engagements have been even more unfavourable to this object than thofe of moft artifts. A long circumnavigation, and the profeffional labour required in completing the works for Captain Cook's fecond voyage, occupied me for feveral years; and a voyage to India, with my different excurfions in that country, abforbed no inconfiderable portion of my time and attention.
$\mathrm{O}_{\mathrm{N}}$ another part of this work I can fpeak with rather more confidence, becaufe I am lefs perfonally concerned; and becaufe, as far as I am concerned, I appear in my pro-
vi. PREFACE.
per profeffional character. The drawings, from which the plates for this work are engraved, I have already mentioned were made upon the fpot: and, to the utmof of my ability, are fair and accurate reprefentations of the originals, Of the execution of the plates, while I feel that too much cannot be faid, my fenfes fufficiently convince me that it is unneceffary to fay any thing. I therefore conclude with fhortly returning my thanks to the artifts for the care and attention they have beftowed upon them.

Queen Street, May Fair,
Feb. 18,. 1793 .

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