

GAZETTEER

OF THE

Rare section

PROVINCE OF SIND.

COMPILED BY

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BOM. UNCOV. CIVIL SERVICE.

Second Edition.

WITH MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHIC ILLUSTRATIONS.

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ILLUSTRATIONS.



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PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.



WITH the exception of two Directories of Sind published by a private individual, one about the year 1857, and the other in 1862, no work of a kind resembling a Gazetteer of the Province seems at any time to have been compiled, and the present volume may therefore fairly claim to be the first yet published.

Numerous official reports, memoirs, and notes on Sind, written by Government officers of the different services, from a date anterior to the conquest of the Province, and extending down to 1854, have been published in a single volume, but such a work, though abounding in much that is useful, could not take to itself the title of Gazetteer. The names of several of the writers, such as Heddle, Carless, Postans, Jacob, Goldsmid, Stocks, Burton, Wood, James, and Pelly, are in themselves sufficient guarantees of the value of their contributions, and the Compiler has not failed to avail himself largely of the great store of information contained in the interesting reports of these able officers.

The introductory portion of the Gazetteer will be found to contain a large amount of information, having special reference to the Province of Sind taken as a whole, the Compiler deeming it better so to arrange it, as otherwise much of this information could not have found a place in the body of the work.

It is a matter of regret that so little mention can be made of the geology of Sind; and, in the absence as yet of that scientific research which is now going on in other parts of British India, it is impossible to say whether this Province is ever likely to offer a rich and attractive field to the geologist. The peculiar nature of

the soil of Sind, the volcanic character of its hills, and the large deposits of marine *exuvie* which are found on many of them, all lead to the supposition that very much of the country must, at some previous geological epoch, have been covered by the sea, drawing forth, and not inaptly, the following observation:—

“Vidi ego, quod fuerat quondam solidissima tellus
 Esse frētum; vidi factas ex æquore terras;
 Et procul a pelago conchæ jacere marinæ:
 Hæc vetus inventa est in montibus anchora summis.
 Quodque fuit campus, Allem decursus aquarum
 Fecit.”

It is considered advisable to mention that the population returns as given in this Gazetteer are, to a great extent, either mere estimates, or have reference to the Census of 1856. This is owing to the returns of the Census of 1872 not having been compiled in time to admit of their being included in the Introduction, or throughout the alphabetical portion of the Gazetteer; but in the Appendix No. II., the number of inhabitants in certain districts, and in their chief towns, according to this latest census, has been shown, where it is possible to do so.

In the description of towns and villages, none have, as a rule, been entered in the Gazetteer having a less population than 800 souls, except where, from a previous state of prosperity, architectural remains, interesting antiquities, or the like, they were considered of sufficient importance to demand a distinct notice.

The system of transliteration followed out in this Gazetteer has been that prescribed by Government, viz., “the improved Jonesian,” but it was not till August 1872 that any definite arrangement on this head was arrived at. This will account, in some measure, for the difference in spelling of several names in the Introduction as compared with those in the alphabetical portion, the sheets of the former having all been struck off before the revised list of names was approved of.

A map of the Province of Sind accompanies the Gazetteer. It has been prepared with care, and, though on a small scale, is made to show, as far as is practicable, the extensive canal system at present prevailing throughout the Province.

Though it has been the object of the Compiler to make the Sind Gazetteer as complete as the means placed at his disposal would admit, it can only, it is feared, be considered at best as an imperfect and preliminary work. Reliable statistical information on many important subjects in connection with the Province is at present almost unobtainable, and where supplied is merely of an approximate nature. This state of things must necessarily so continue till a proper system of statistical inquiry is organized throughout the Province. It is nevertheless the hope of the Compiler that a foundation at least has been laid, upon which a better and more reliable superstructure may be raised in the future.