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# GAZETTEER

OF

THE TERRITORIES UNDER THE GOVERNMENT

OF

*The East India Company,*

AND OF THE

NATIVE STATES ON THE CONTINENT OF INDIA.

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COMPILED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE HON. COURT OF DIRECTORS,  
CHIEFLY FROM DOCUMENTS IN THEIR POSSESSION,

BY

EDWARD THORNTON, ESQ.,

AUTHOR OF THE "HISTORY OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE IN INDIA"

IN FOUR VOLUMES

VOL. I.

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## P R E F A C E.

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THE present work is the first that has ever aspired to the character of completeness as a "Gazetteer of the Territories under the Government of the East-India Company, and of the Native States on the Continent of India." The task could never have been executed but for the patronage which the Court of Directors were pleased to bestow upon the undertaking. How far the work produced is worthy of such patronage, is a question on which it would not become its Compiler to offer an opinion. The vast mass of exclusive information contained in the records of the East-India Company has been at his disposal, and the labour expended in extracting therefrom such matters as possessed importance or interest, has been proportioned to the extent of the field to be traversed. Of the amount of that labour it would be difficult to speak, without, on the one hand, appearing to indulge in exaggeration, or, on the other, actually underrating it. It will be preferable to leave the reader to form his own estimate from the results before him.

The extent of country to be treated of, and the number of places of which some account was to be given, have necessarily imposed brevity; in some instances, perhaps, to a degree which is to be regretted; but no student, it is

trusted, will find himself disappointed, unless his views be directed to very minute points of inquiry. In regard to points more strictly geographical, this work has an advantage which no former one could possess; an advantage resting on the corrections recently established by scientific observations. In this respect the delay of publication, rendered unavoidable by the vastness of the requisite researches, has been actually beneficial. The constant accumulation of statistical facts has had a similar effect. Upon other matters it is unnecessary to dwell. A word only need be added on a vexed subject—the best mode of spelling proper names. On this point opinions are almost endless; and neither theory nor practice will afford a standard demanding general obedience. The word “Beekaneer” is an instance. At page 298 of vol. i. not less than eleven modes of spelling it are pointed out,—Bikaner, Bhicaner, Bikaneer, Bickaneer, Bickanere, Bikkancir, Bhikanere, Beekaneer, Beekaner, Beykaneer, Bicanere,—each resting on good authority. Amidst such conflict it would have been almost presumptuous to determine to which mode the preference should be awarded. After much reflection, it was considered to be the safer, as well as the more unobtrusive course, to follow the mode adopted in the official documents of the East-India Company. Those documents have yielded the greater part of the information contained in these volumes; and it is hoped that in adopting the spelling with the facts, the Compiler has not greatly erred.