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MAJOR-GENERAL
SIR THOMAS MUNRO

BART., K.C.B.

GOVERNOR OF MADRAS,

SELECTIONS FROM HIS MINUTES ~~AND OTHER~~
OFFICIAL WRITINGS

EDITED

WITH AN INTRODUCTORY MEMOIR AND NOTES

BY

SIR ALEXANDER J. ARBUTHNOT, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.

A NEW EDITION

WITH A MAP.

MADRAS:

HIGGINBOTHAM AND CO.

By Appointment in India to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales,
and Publishers to the Madras University.

1836.

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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

THE present edition of Sir Thomas Munro's papers contains in a single volume the whole of the matter included in the two-volume edition published in London in 1881. A few of the footnotes have been slightly revised, and two papers which in the previous edition formed Appendices B and D, have been transferred to their proper places in the body of the work. The first of these, "*On a permanent settlement of Canara,*" will be found at page 83, and the second, "*On the employment of negro regiments in India, etc., etc.,*" at page 363.

1886.

A. J. A.

DEDICATION.

TO THE RIGHT HONBLE LORD NAPIER AND ETTRICK, K.T

DEAR LORD NAPIER,

You have been kind enough to allow me to inscribe to you these memorials of the most distinguished of your predecessors in the Government of Madras.

I asked your permission to connect your name with this work, knowing that you entertain a genuine admiration of the character and policy of Sir Thomas Munro; and in availing myself of that permission, I cannot abstain from expressing my conviction that there is no British Statesman, at the present time, who possesses so thorough a knowledge of our great Indian dependency, her people, and her wants, as that which your Lordship acquired when filling the post in which Munro died, and that few politicians have so consistently acted upon the principle, long recognized by the most eminent men of all parties, but nowadays too often forgotten, that India should be regarded as beyond the scope of English party politics.

Believe me,

Dear Lord Napier,

Yours very sincerely,

A. J. ARBUTHNOT.

NEWTOWN HOUSE, NEAR NEWBURY,

4th March, 1881

series of Minutes on the first war with Burma, the successful prosecution of which was mainly due to Munro's active and cordial co-operation, as Governor of Madras, with the Governor-General, Lord Amherst.

For the benefit of those who may not have an opportunity of studying Mr. Gleig's work, I have thought it advisable to prefix to the Minutes an introductory Memoir, embodying in a compendious form a narrative of Munro's military and administrative career, and of the principal events in the history of British India, between 1780 and 1827, with which it was connected. In this Memoir I have drawn largely upon the private letters, published by Mr. Gleig,* and forming on some points a most valuable supplement to the official Minutes. Indeed, on the great political and military questions with which, in the time of Lord Cornwallis, Lord Wellesley, and Lord Hastings, the Government of India had to deal, the Minutes, without the aid of the private letters, would furnish a very inadequate account of Munro's opinions, or of the extent to which he influenced the views of his official superiors; for up to 1820, when he became Governor of Madras, his situation was a comparatively subordinate one, and it was only by means of private correspondence that he was in a position to urge his views on matters beyond the scope of his official duties. Under this category must be included everything that he wrote on the policy to

* The references made in the foot-
notes of the Memoir to Gleig's Life of
Munro are to the second edition of
that work, in two volumes, published
by Colburn and Bentley in 1831.

be pursued towards Tippoo and the Mahrattas, on the question of subsidiary forces, and generally on the political prospects and requirements of British rule in India up to the date of its consolidation by the war with the Mahrattas in 1817 and 1818.

The Memoir also contains some explanatory observations on questions connected with the revenue and judicial administration which are discussed in the Minutes, and which, involving as they do allusions to facts and circumstances unfamiliar to those who have not gone through an Indian training, appear to require some explanation.

One word as to the spelling of the native names. The plan which I have generally followed has been to adopt the system of spelling which was introduced by Sir William Jones, and which is generally observed by continental writers on India, except in the case of names such as Madras, Bombay, Hyderabad, Trichinopoly, Hyder, Tippoo, etc., etc., which by long usage have become stereotyped according to the mode of spelling adopted by the English at an early period of British Indian history. This is the plan which has lately been sanctioned by the Government of India for official use, and it is upon this plan that the spelling of native names is regulated in the district and provincial Gazetteers now in course of preparation. But in one or two cases, owing to the fact that a portion of the Minutes was printed before the question of the transliteration of native names had been finally settled

by the Government of India, there has been a deviation from the plan now laid down. For instance, the principal town in one of the districts commonly known as the Ceded Districts, has been spelt Ballári, whereas Bellary, the spelling long recognized by established usage, is that which has been prescribed by the Government of India. Here, however, I may mention that Ballári was the spelling invariably adopted by Munro. Another deviation from the established plan occurs in the printing of the native names mentioned in the letters of the late Duke of Wellington, which are given as footnotes to the Memoir on pages lv.—lvii. It appeared to me that it would be more interesting to most readers if these letters were printed without any sort of alteration, especially as two of them do not appear to have been published on any previous occasion. The originals are in the manuscript library of the British Museum, and were brought to my notice by Mr. R. Garnett, the present Superintendent of the Reading Room. My acknowledgments are due to Mr. Garnett for his kind assistance in this and in other matters, and also to several of the officials at the India Office, including Mr. Pedder, the Revenue Secretary, Mr. Charles Prinsep, Mr. Peters (now retired), Dr. Rost, the Librarian, and Mr. Waterfield, the Assistant Librarian, who have aided me in my researches in the Record Room and Library of that office. Nor must I omit to mention that in connection with some of the notes

appended to the Minutes I have received valuable aid from my old friend and former colleague in the Legislative Council at Madras, the Honourable Vembákam Rámiengár, one of the ablest native officials in India, whose honourable and useful career may justly be cited as one of the many instances which the history of British Indian administration has supplied of the soundness of Munro's view, that we should not be 'satisfied with merely securing our power and protecting the inhabitants of India; but that we should endeavour to raise their character and to render them worthy of filling higher situations in the management of their country, and of devising plans for its improvement.'

A. J. ARBUTHNOT.

P R E F A C E.

MORE than half a century has passed by since the publication of Mr. Gleig's Life of Sir Thomas Munro made the English public acquainted with the services, and to a certain extent with the opinions, of a statesman who has long been regarded as one of the ablest of the many able men who have taken a part in founding and in administering our British Indian Empire. Mr. Gleig's work contains copious extracts from Sir Thomas Munro's private correspondence and several specimens of his official writings; but anything like a complete selection from the latter was necessarily beyond the scope of a work designed rather to instruct and interest the general reader, than to serve as a book of reference for the administrator. It has, however, long been felt, and especially by those whose official position has given them access to Munro's papers, that a compilation of them, so selected and arranged as to present a tolerably complete record of his views and policy, could not fail to prove of much practical value to all whose business it is to study Indian questions, whether as administrators or as critics. A suggestion to this effect, made by the Madras Government some years

ago, was approved by Sir Charles Wood (now Viscount Halifax), then Secretary of State for India, and the work of editing the papers was entrusted by the Madras Government to two gentlemen in succession, both of whom, owing to different causes, were unable to proceed with it. On my retirement from the Council of the Governor of Madras, towards the end of 1872, I undertook to execute the work, and had made some progress in it, when my appointment to the Council of the Governor-General obliged me in a great measure to suspend it, and I was only able to resume it after my return from India a few months ago.

The papers contained in this volume have been selected from a considerable mass of papers. They are arranged under five heads: Revenue, Judicial, Political, Military, and Miscellaneous; and they comprise, it is believed, all the more important of the official papers left on record by Munro. They embody his views on the land tenures of the south of India, and especially on the ryotwár system of land revenue, with which his name and authority have so long been identified; his opinions on the judicial and police administration, on the treatment of native feudatory chiefs, on native education, on the employment and advancement of natives in the public service, on the native army, on famines, on the press, and, in fact, on most of the important questions which then, as now, engaged the attention and taxed the powers of the rulers of India. The compilation includes a valuable

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