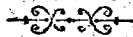


DOCUMENTS  
AND  
EXTRACTS  
ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE  
*BRITISH PERIOD*

OF

INDIAN HISTORY



Part I.

Mainly Constitutional.

Documents and Extracts  
Illustrative of the British Period  
OF  
INDIAN HISTORY.



Part I.

MAINLY CONSTITUTIONAL

“The roots of the present lie deep in the past, and nothing in the past is dead to the man who would learn how the present comes to be what it is. It is true, constitutional history has a point of view, an insight, and a language of its own ; it reads the exploits and characters of men by a different light from that shed by the false glare of arms, and interprets positions and facts in words that are voiceless to those who have only listened to the trumpet of fame.”

*Stubbs.*

For the sober student, history is no mere record of chance happenings. Events are only the exemplification of the working of immutable laws.

The analysis and criticism of partisan records supply abundant scope for the most severely scientific methods.

*Adams's Evolution of Educational Theory.*

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CALCUTTA.

TO  
THE HON'BLE JUSTICE  
SIR ASUTOSH MOOKERJEE, KT.,  
C.S.I., M.A., D.L., D. SC., F.R.A.S., F.R.S.E.,  
*Saraswati, Sastra-Vachaspati,*  
*Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta*

whose sympathy has been an unfailing source of  
inspiration to me in my historical and literary  
studies, and who has done so much for the  
promotion of true education among his  
countrymen, this unpretentious  
collection is, by permission,  
humbly dedicated.

*Calcutta, 1912.*

*Compiler.*

## P R E F A C E .



THE object of the present compilation is to put together in a compendious form a few of the more important documents which tend to throw light on the British period of Indian History with special reference to the times of Warren Hastings, Cornwallis and Wellesley—the three Governors General with whose names the rise and progress of British power in the East is most intimately associated. At the same time an attempt has been made to trace chronologically through these documents the successive stages in the constitutional development of British authority in India. It may thus be hoped that these papers will, to some extent, serve the purpose of a constitutional History of British India. A good deal may, no doubt, be urged in favour of the view that despatches and minutes and such like contemporary records are but the dry bones of history into which life has to be breathed through the constructive imagination or the systematising genius of some master-mind. But the educative value of the examination of old records will hardly be disputed in these days. If history is to serve as a preparation for citizenship in Modern India, no more fruitful method of study may be indicated to our younger generation than the investigation of original sources of information, involving, as it does, a careful sifting of evidence and a careful weighing of conflicting arguments and frequent appeals to our powers of judgment and to our moral perceptions.

The ideas with which modern sociological writers have made us familiar are those of evolution and gradual development, and adaptation to circumstances in the social and political organism, discernible in all communities. The student of history would fain believe that in India, as everywhere else, the present has grown historically out of the past and that the course of Indian History also is marked by the working out of certain definite principles and the operation of certain general causes. We would fain believe that out of the union of the East and the West brought about by the genius and energy of Clive and Hastings, certain definite ideal as regards the government of dependencies and certain definite conceptions regarding the nature and responsibilities of Empire are being evolved in the English political world in accordance with the march of events in English History since the days of Lord North's Regulating Act of 1773.

The present compilation is an attempt to help to promote the study of Indian History from these standpoints.

That the present Government of India with its complicated administrative machinery should have grown out of a trading corporation not composed of the best which England had to give to the cause of maritime adventure and colonial expansion, offers a historical problem of the highest interest. Its study cannot but be full of instruction and practical suggestions for us all.

*Calcutta, 1912.*

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