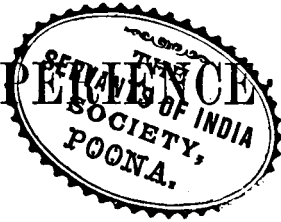


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VARIOUS OCCASIONS.

By SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, BART.,

G.C.S.I., C.I.E., D.C.L., LL.D.,

LATE GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY, LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF BENGAL,
AND FINANCE MINISTER OF INDIA :

AUTHOR OF "INDIA IN 1880," "MEN AND EVENTS OF MY TIME," ETC.

WITH MAPS AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

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TO HER ROYAL HIGHNESS
ALEXANDRA,
PRINCESS OF WALES,
This Book,
REFERRING TO REGIONS VISITED
BY HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES,
IS,
WITH HER GRACIOUS PERMISSION,
DEDICATED.

P R E F A C E.

THIS book is intended to be a continuation of my two former books, 'India in 1880,' and 'Men and Events of my time in India.' The volume comprises a collection of addresses and speeches delivered before Societies or Associations in Great Britain, and articles contributed to English magazines, by me since my return to England in 1880. They all relate to one great subject, namely, the East, and in that sense are all connected together. Almost all of them are the results of my personal experience. Though they are entirely pervaded by the one idea of that duty which we British people owe to ourselves and to others in the East, yet there is no sameness about them. On the contrary, there will, I trust, be found in them a ceaseless variety. In this loom, so to speak, are extended numerous threads of divers hues, but they are crossed by a woof of one colour, and that represents British responsibility. Thus the texture has an uniformity in general appearance with an endless diversity in detail. While British India naturally occupies a considerable portion of the volume, other regions of the East come into view. Out of the twenty-one chapters in the book, eleven refer to Indian affairs, and the remainder to different subjects in the East.

These latter chapters relate to the progress of survey and exploration throughout Asia by European and American travellers who, in adventure, in peril, in suffering, have widened the limits of human knowledge, and of whom some

have been steadfast unto death in the cause of science;—to the physical features of that Central Asian plateau which is replete with marvels of scenery, of climate, of social cataclysms, of natural products;—to the lessons of Chinese history, showing the unchanging polity, the deep-rooted institutions, the contradictory qualities, the unfathomable mind, the despairing courage, of a people whose part in Asiatic politics is not yet played out;—to the lovely lake-district on the frontier of East Tibet, near the dividing line between the British and Chinese dominions, and between the two most populous empires on earth;—to the railway alignment through the Indus desert into the mountain flanks of the region still called Khorasan, up to the border of southern Afghanistan;—to the inner disposition, the stern faith, the proud aspirations, the declining forces, the waning hopes, of the Muhammadan world in which England has a pre-eminent interest politically;—to the situation and prospects of Egypt and the principles of administration in a land whose destinies are to be guided by British policy;—to the outward objects and inward associations of the Holy Land as they actually present themselves before the student on the spot and the pilgrim of to-day;—to the diffusion of social science from its centre of enlightenment in the United Kingdom to the remotest parts of the British empire abroad.

Of the Indian topics dealt with in this volume, some, such as the question of local self-government for the natives, have arisen since I left that country. The three chapters regarding the Mahrattas constitute a monograph on a remarkable nationality with which I have enjoyed peculiar opportunities of being acquainted, and which, having fulfilled a great destiny in the past, might rise into embarrassing prominence under future contingencies. Further, there is a disquisition regarding the political economy of British India, the condition of its people, the expansion of its trade, banking and industry, the soundness of its finances. The objections sometimes urged against missionary enterprise are answered by a statement of the facts

concerning the success of private effort in the most sacred of causes. The under-currents in the minds of natives, and the tendencies of their religious thought, are examined. The duty of British people towards their Eastern fellow-subjects is urged at the bar of national conscience. The happy promotion of Temperance among Europeans in the East is set forth. The professional instruction in engineering, and technical education generally, are advocated by reference to example. The preservation of forests, for the sake of climatic benefit as well as material wealth, is inculcated.

In the various parts of the book there will be found much diversity of style and composition, because some are reports of speeches, while others are written essays. Though the speeches have been carefully revised, no attempt has been made to modify the form they naturally have as oral deliverances.

Three chapters, being addresses on geographical characteristics, are abundantly illustrated. Besides the illustrations, there is prefixed to each of these chapters a special map, copied from that which was prepared by the Royal Geographical Society for the addresses. Further, to the chapter on Chinese history a map is appended for particular reference concerning the events described. At the beginning of the book, too, there will be found a map displaying the progress of geography, and the physical configuration, of Asia generally. This has been compiled from two large diagrams that were prepared for the British Association for the Advancement of Science, in order to illustrate the addresses included in the volume.

If my topics shall seem many-sided and multifarious for a single author, it is to be remembered that these works represent the outcome of a thirty years' preparation, and embody the result of an almost life-long labour.

I am under a pleasant obligation to the several Societies and Associations in Great Britain, and to the several English magazines, that have permitted me to re-publish the addresses and speeches I have delivered before them at their invitation, or the

articles I have contributed to them. Thus my thankful acknowledgements are rendered to the Royal Geographical Society, the Royal Historical Society, the Royal Colonial Institute, the Society of Arts, the British Association for the Advancement of Science, the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, the Presbyterian Board of Missions in America, the Baptist Missionary Society in London, the East India Association, the Institute of Bankers in London, the Scottish Arboricultural Society, the Temperance Association in Liverpool, the 'Encyclopædia Britannica,' the 'Contemporary Review,' the 'Fortnightly Review,' and the 'Evening News,' in London.

I am specially indebted to Sir Thomas Wade for advice of the utmost value to me in my estimate of Chinese tendencies; and to Mr. Trelawny Saunders for much geographical verification respecting Mid Asia.

The composition of these papers, and the reproduction of these speeches, while recalling many bright associations of the sunny land, and many memories of national triumphs won by Britain in Asia, must yet awaken a sorrowful regret for those whose place knows them no more, and for those who, though still in active existence, will probably not be seen by me again. However keen may be our interest in the events now passing before us, and in the wondrous prospect of the time coming, we can hardly escape from pensive reflection after a retrospect of the momentous circumstances which this generation has witnessed in the East. While the thoughts of that noble past crowd around us, we call to mind the lines in the dedication of 'Faust,' some of which I translate literally.

"Ye draw near again, ye wavering forms, that once before showed yourselves to my troubled sight; shall I really essay this time to hold ye fast? . . . Ye bring with ye the images of happy days, and many beloved shades rise up; like an old Saga lay half-expired, first love and friendship come forth together: the grief is renewed, the wailing repeats the

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labyrinthine erring course of life, and calls up the Good, who, by Fortune disappointed of their shining hours, have vanished from before me. . . That which I grasp I see as in the distance, and that which has disappeared, to me becomes reality."

R. T.

THE NASH, KEMPSEY, *near* WORCESTER,
October 1883.

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