

ON THE
RITUALS CONQUERED FROM THE PAISHWA.

SUBMITTED TO THE SUPREME GOVERNMENT
OF GREAT BRITAIN AND INDIA,

HONBLE MOUNTSTUART ELPHINSTONE,
COMMISSIONER.

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REPORT

ON THE

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AND
RETURNED TO THE SUPREME GOVERNMENT
OF BRITISH INDIA,

BY THE

HONBLE MOUNTSTUART ELPHINSTONE,

COMMISSIONER

DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTRY

The whole extent of the country under the Commissioner, may be very roughly estimated at 50,000 square miles, and the population may be guessed at 4,000,000; but this does not include any of the detached territories, beyond the Nizam's frontier.

The grand geographical feature of this tract is the chain of ghauts, which run along the western boundary, for its whole length. Between this range and the sea lies the Concan, now under Bombay. It extends from 40 to 50 miles in breadth, includes many fertile places producing abundance of rice; but, in general, is very rough, and much crossed by steep and rocky hills. Towards the ghauts, the country is in most places extremely strong, divided by hills intersected by ravines, and covered with thick forest. The range itself is from 2,000 to 4,000 feet high, extremely abrupt, and inaccessible on the west. The passes are numerous, but steep, and very seldom passable for carriages. The table land on the east is nearly as high as many parts of the ridge of the ghauts, but, in general, the hills rise above it to the height of from 1,000 to 1,500 feet. The table land is for a considerable distance, rendered very strong, by numerous spurs issuing from the range, among which are deep winding rugged valleys often filled with thick jungle. Further east the branches from the ghauts become less frequent, and the country becomes more level, till the neighbourhood of the Nizam's frontier, where it is an open plain.