

THE  
CITIES OF GUJARASHTRA: *(India)*  
THEIR  
TOPOGRAPHY AND HISTORY ILLUSTRATED,

IN  
THE JOURNAL OF  
A  
RECENT TOUR ;  
WITH ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS.

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'THE GRAVES OF VANISHED EMPIRES.'

AARON HILL.

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## CHAPTER XVII.

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DEPARTURE from Ahmedabád.—Jhánasa, or incendiarism by threat.—Nariád, the country and its resources.—Journey continued—Arrival at Barodá.—Derivation of the name.—The City and British Cantonments.—Political Residents at the Court.—Character of the late Sáyjí Ráu Gáikavád.

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25TH JANUARY.—By half-past four of the afternoon of last Saturday, I had mounted on horseback and was on my way out of the city of Ahmedábád, by the Jamálpur Darwázá. In the course of an hour, I could catch the last glimpses of the city, receding from view with the western sun gilding sikrá and fairy mínár, and capacious dome : not involuntarily, perhaps my thoughts were passing from the works of art, to the dying splendour of the “god of day.”

I had now fairly quitted Ahmedabád for Barodá. I was fortunately accompanied in my journey by a traveller proceeding thitherward, with whom I had engaged to keep company. We had a guard of sawárs, sípáhís, &c., indeed a cavalcade, formidable enough to daunt the spirit of any marauding parties, while it lent an imposing appearance to our progress. I continued to prefer the native cart, as my travelling equipage : occasionally mounting one of the steeds of my *compagnon de voyage*, as it suited my limbs, or a love for the picturesque prompted me to vault into the saddle. The moon had just passed her full, and the projected trip to Barodá was fraught with every hope of interest and entertainment. Lálí, the mid-stage between Ahmedabád and Kaira, was passed shortly after nine o'clock. I now entered my *chakra*, to obtain some rest. By eleven, we had gained Wásná, the second *gáu* (hamlet) from Lálí, where I partook of a little water from a tank

establishments,—arising doubtless from the security in the British cantonment, lying not a league beyond to the E. S. E. At once unrivalled for wealth and filthiness, no city needs so sadly the process of demephitization: and, strange for a Maharáta regime, swine are the only scavengers employed by the state, and the scene is rendered more obnoxious from the presence of these animals in every stage of excremented wretchedness.

In the very heart of the city, and within the vicinity of the Palace (which lays northward, and is said to be decorated with princely magnificence internally, though the exterior is mean) and the great market of the capital, is a square erection of three lofty arches a side and running transversely into each other: the design is Muslím. From this quarter issue two great streets which intersect the town at almost right angles. In different parts of the town I went over the hunting establishments of cheetahs of the Prince; the menageries which encaged a number of tigers; saw an old chained giraffe; the surviving rhinoceros presented by Lord AMHERST; and the extensive elephant and camel stable-yards. The only decent-looking buildings that I passed were of European origin—one being constructed for Captain BALLANTINE, the other for Mr WILLIAMS of the civil service—both at one time attached to the Political Residency: the smaller house was in dilapidated condition, and consequently I presumed closed; the larger is used under the Gáikawád's orders, for the accommodation of indigent native travellers. At no great distance beyond, is the only existing ancient erection from the chisel of the Hindu Silpi: it is a *báuri* or well, and is singularly denominated *náu lák ke báuri*, or the well of nine láks, to signify that it cost its projector that sum. The material employed is grey-wacke; and in size the well is nobly capacious, after the Adhálaj and Dádá Harir constructions. Very little care is taken of the property, and while its existence is attributed to a saintly *fakir*, it is owned by the old and wealthy banking house of *Harí Bakthí*, whose sole surviving partner and heir is a youth of ten years, by name Parsotam.