

A
GEOGRAPHICAL, STATISTICAL, AND HISTORICAL

DESCRIPTION

OF

H I N D O S T A N,

AND THE

ADJACENT COUNTRIES.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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VOL. I.

LONDON.

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.

1820.

rubbish and dispersed state of the houses, render its appearance very dismal. It still contains 12 market places, scattered over an immense extent, and the resident population may be computed at 30,000, besides travellers by land and water, who are always numerous; and the supplying of whom with necessaries forms the principal support of the town. Within its limits is the tomb of Meerun, the son of Jaffier Ali, the predecessor and also the successor of Cossim Ali. Meerun (by whose orders Seraje ud Dowlah was assassinated) was killed by lightning, and buried here in a tomb of small size, but neatly kept, many flowers being planted near it.—(*F. Buchanan, Stewart, Lord Valentia, &c.*)

SICLYGULI (*Sancriguli, the Narrow Pass*).—This celebrated pass is situated in the province of Bengal, about eight miles N. by W. from Rajamahal, and marks the boundaries of the Bengal and Bahar provinces. This pass during the Hindoo and Mahomedan governments was the commanding entrance from Bahar into the kingdom of Bengal, and was fortified with a strong wall, which does not appear, however, to have been of any real service, as in 1742, a Maharatta army of cavalry penetrated into Bengal to the S.W. of this pass, through the hills above Colgong.

UDANULLA (*Udayala Nala*).—A small town in the Bengal portion of the Boglipoor district, 62 miles N. W. by N. from Moorshedabad. Lat. 24° 56' N. long. 87° 52' E. There is not any substance so coarse as gravel, either in the Delta of the Ganges, or nearer the sea than Oudanulla, which is 400 miles distant by the windings of the river. At this place a rocky point, part of the base of the neighbouring hills, projects into the river. Besides an elegant bridge erected here by the unfortunate Sultan Shujah, this place is noted for the extensive lines constructed here by Cossim Ali, and forced by the troops under Major Adams in 1764. These lines in fact could only be of use during the rainy season, as between the right flank and the hills, there is an extensive tract of rice ground. The lines are now a complete ruin, and very few traces remain of the approaches made by the assailants, when they were stormed by Major Adams, and during the rainy season, at which period they were thought strongest. But in reality they were of no strength at any time, and only served to make the garrison imagine themselves secure from attack, when the fact was exactly the reverse.—(*F. Buchanan, Rennell, Hodges, &c.*)

DISTRICT OF RUNGPOOR (*Rangapura*).

This district occupies the north eastern extremity of Bengal, and is principally situated between the 25th and 26th degrees of north latitude. To the north it has Bootan; on the south it has the district of Mymunsingh and the Garrow

mountains; to the east Assam and the Garrows; and on the west Dinagepoor. Its extreme length from the confines of Assam to the borders of Morung is 185 British miles, and its greatest breadth, which is from the limits of Rajshahy to the frontier of Bootan, 116 miles. The shape of this district is so exceedingly irregular as to bid defiance to description; but the main feature of its eccentricity is the deep sweep which the Cooch Bahar territory takes between its north western and its south eastern extremes, which can scarcely be exceeded in perplexity. The course of the Caratoya was, at the suggestion of Mr. Parr, made the general line of boundary between Rungpoor and Dinagepoor, and probably the channel which the river then followed was as good a common boundary as could have been fixed upon; but by this arrangement the limits of the two jurisdictions were far from being clearly defined, for the Caratoya is liable to change, according to the channel the main rush of the Teesta (which, notwithstanding its name, is never at rest) enters. In the present instance its course has varied very considerably since it was selected for the common boundary, and the frontier villages have consequently become intermixed. The head stations of the two districts have also been badly chosen, both with reference to their respective jurisdictions, and distance from each other. To the southward from Seebgunge, where the line of the Rungpoor boundary quits the Caratoya, to the site of the Currybarry tanna, the irregularity of division is extreme, which cannot fail to operate very materially to the prejudice of the general police of Rungpoor, as well as of the circumjacent districts. Besides these, Rungpoor labours under other peculiar local disadvantages, in the vast extent of its frontier, exposed to no less than five independent states (Nepaul, Bootan, Cooch Bahar, Assam, and the Garrows) from which it is separated, not by large rivers, lofty mountains, or any other natural landmarks, but by boundaries, for the most part, merely imaginary; and, as might be expected from such ill defined limits, the possession of the frontier tracts is every where contested.

According to Dr. Francis Buchanan, this district contains 7,400 square miles, distributed in the following proportions:

	Square miles.
Land occupied by rivers, tanks, and water courses	901
Clay land, inundated during the wet season	37
Ditto, good free soil, ditto	1,633
Light sandy soil, ditto	720
Clay lands exempt from inundation and fit for the plough	128
	3,419

except at the capital, and in some of the principal families, the people not having the art of converting it into flour, boil it like rice. Barley is little cultivated, and maize almost unknown. The quantity of cotton cultivated is insignificant, although there be much waste land fit for it, nor is the sugar cane raised in any considerable quantity. The grand staple of the district is tobacco; and the betel leaf required for internal consumption is enormous. The poppy was formerly cultivated on government account, and the illicit cultivation, through the connivance of the native officers, still continues. Indigo is cultivated, but on account of the great moisture of the district, it is difficult to preserve the seed in good vegetating condition, but the whole cultivation is of no consequence to the general prosperity. Three species of profitable insects are reared by the farmers; the mulberry and ricinus silk worms, and the lac insect. All the implements necessary for a farm of one plough may here be purchased for 7*s.*; the cost of a sugar mill is 12*s.* 4*d.* and the total cost of working it about three guineas. Elephants are numerous throughout the two eastern divisions, and wherever there are extensive forests and thickets, the rhinoceros is not uncommon, and is quite harmless, injuring neither persons nor crops. The other remarkable animals are apes, monkeys, black bears, and most enormous tigers.

The great farmers in Rungpoor are mostly Brahmins, Kayastas, and Mahomedans of some rank, and the leases may be said to be in perpetuity, or perhaps rather, that the occupants of the soil are the real proprietors, bound to pay a certain tax to government through the zemindar, and in most parts the rent is paid in monthly instalments fixed by the regulations. The landlords as yet appear to have no confidence in the promises of government, and consider the perpetual settlement as of no value, for they cannot believe it possible that the supreme authority should know of their receiving large sums of money, without immediately demanding a share. The manners of this class are generally very indifferent. Few, especially of the older families, ever visit each other, but live surrounded by dependants and flatterers, especially mendicant vagrants, who entertain them with marvellous stories. A great proportion of these miscreants is composed of men who pretend to have devoted their lives to religion, poverty and abstinence. Some families pretend to be of divine origin, others are descended from princes who have governed the country; but a great proportion of those who possess the most valuable lands are new men, who have purchased their estates at auction, among which number are the descendants of Catta Baboo, Mr. Hastings's dewan. The estates of the Boruya contain 470 square miles, yet pay only 3,000 rupees per annum to government.

All ranks in this district spin cotton thread, but a considerable part of the raw material is imported from the west of India by the way of Bogwangola and

his Dewan and Moonshee, the appointment in future of the first mentioned officer being subjected to the approval of the Governor-General. To the proposal for the introduction of a system of criminal jurisprudence to be administered in his name through the agency of the commissioner, the Raja gave a conditional assent, and the requests he made in consequence were deemed free from objection. The amount of tribute paid to the Bengal government in 1814 was 62,722 rupees.—(*F. Buchanan, Public MS. Documents, Turner, J. Grant, Stewart, Pierard, &c. &c.*)

BEYHAR (*Vihar*).—The modern residence of the Cooch Bahar Rajas. Lat. 26° 18' N. long. 89° 22' E. 32 miles N. from Rungpoor.

THE DISTRICT OF DINAGEPOOR (*Dinajpur*).

The district of Dinagepoor is situated principally between the 25th and 26th degrees of north latitude. On the north it is bounded by Rungpoor and Purneah; on the south by Rajshahy and Mymunsingh; to the east it has Rungpoor and Mymunsingh; and to the west Purneah and Boglipoor. Its greatest length from the southern extremity to the northern is 105 miles, and its greatest breadth 82 miles; having a triangular form with the acute angle to the north. This district was formerly named Circar Pinjerah; and, according to Major Rennell's measurement in 1784, contained 3,519 square miles; but the present district is much more extensive, and when surveyed in 1808, by Dr. Francis Buchanan, contained about 5,374 square miles, distributed nearly in the following proportions, viz.—

Rivers, tanks, marshes, and water courses, &c.	. . . . .	353
Inundated in the rainy season	. . . . .	381
Red clay	. . . . .	38
Light coloured clay	. . . . .	2,441
Free soil	. . . . .	2,161
		Total 5,374

The western boundary is well defined, being separated from the division of Purneah by the rivers Nagar and Mahananda, to the junction of the latter with the Punabhoba; but its boundary on the south towards Rajshahy is complicated and uncertain. On the east Dinagepoor is separated from Rungpoor by a river usually called the Caratty or Korotoya; but to the north its limits are less distinctly marked, although tolerably straight. During the Mogul government, Dinagepoor, along with Edracpoor, constituted the territorial jurisdiction of Aurungabad, and was originally a frontier towards the independent principality of Cooch Bahar, on which account it was little known and lightly assessed.

the extent of land under the indigo weed was about 15,000 Calcutta begahs, allowing 700 for each set of works, of which there were twenty-one. The value of the plant produced at $2\frac{1}{2}$ rupees per begah was about 37,500 rupees. Either too much or too little sun, and either too much or too little rain, will entirely ruin the crop. Sugar is also raised but not in large quantities. A begah or $\frac{1}{3}$ of an acre of good land is reckoned to produce 13,891 lbs. of cane, or 1,159 lbs. of pot extract, and of cake extract 952 lbs. Many sorts of fibrous plants for cordage and sackcloth are sown in April, May, and June; the phaseolus mungo, and mustard seed, are also raised. Hemp is principally cultivated on account of its buds, which are used by the natives for the purposes of intoxication. Flax, although abundantly cultivated in the central parts of Bengal, for its use in making oil, is but little cultivated in Dinagepoor, where the natives make no use of it for the purposes of thread. The kind of wheat raised in this quarter of the province is bad, and the flower produced of so dark a colour, that it is little saleable to Europeans. Several sorts of pulse are sown at the commencement of the cold season, such as kesari (*lathyrus sativa*), the mashuri (*ervum lens*), and the boot (*cicer arietinum*). Tobacco is cultivated to a considerable extent in low and loamy lands.

The breed of oxen here is extremely degenerate, and not only many of the Mahommedans, but even many low tribes of Hindoos, use the cow in the plough, which according to the strict usages of Brahminical nations ought to be punished with death. Notwithstanding the prevailing numbers of the followers of the Arabian prophet in this district, tame swine are more numerous than sheep, and are eaten by the lower classes of Hindoos. The breed of horses, or rather ponies, is of the most wretched description, but their cost is moderate, being only from 4*s.* 6*d.* to 11*s.* 6*d.* each. Slaves are very few, and were mostly purchased during the great famine of 1769, and the scarcity of 1787, to keep them from starving; but they turned out so idle and careless, that their labour was found much more expensive than that of hired labourers. The elephant and rhinoceros can scarcely be said to be known, and tigers are comparatively not numerous; but large flocks of wild buffaloes and hogs infest the fields, and prove extremely destructive to the farmer. Six weeks after the rainy season commences every rice field, although quite dry and hard in the spring, abounds with small fishes, whose appearance is so sudden, that the natives assert they have fallen from the clouds along with the rain.

The bamboo is the most common and useful woody plant, and it is with this substance that the Dinagepoor mats, so celebrated all over Bengal for the superiority of the material, are fabricated. In most other parts they are made of reeds. The picking and cleaning of cotton is performed by the women, and the

MOWAH.—A town in the Tirhoot district, 37 miles E. from Patna. Lat. 25° 34' N. long. 85° 50' E.

ЛОКОНАР.—A small town in the Tirhoot district, 102 miles N. E. from Patna. Lat. 26° 30' N. long. 86° 32' E.

THE DISTRICT OF SARUN (*Sarana, an Asylum*).

This district belongs to the Bahar province, is situated about the 26th degree of north latitude, and now comprehends the district named Bettiah, or Chumparun. To the north it is bounded by Goracpoor and Muckwanpoor; on the south by the Ganges; to the east it has Tirhoot, and on the west the Dewah, or Goggrah river. In 1784, according to Major Rennell's mensuration, Sarun and Bettiah contained 5,106 square miles, of which area the particular portion distinguished by the name of Sarun comprehended 2,560 square miles. So late as 1810, a small fraction of this district continued on the south side of the great Ganges, immediately above the Dinapoor cantonments; a geographical irregularity, which probably has since been rectified. By Abul Fazel in 1582, this district is described as follows: "Circar Sarun, containing 17 mahals; measurement 229,052 begahs; revenue 16,172,004 dams. This Circar furnishes 1000 cavalry, and 50,000 infantry."

The Sarun division, for its dimensions, is one of the most prosperous in the British dominions, and has for a long period been in the highest state of cultivation. The land is plentifully supplied with moisture from two large rivers, the Ganges and the Gunduck, besides numerous smaller streams, and the soil under tillage yields abundantly all the richest productions of the east. It consequently contains scarcely any waste or jungle, so that the inhabitants are under the necessity of sending their cattle into other quarters to graze. Circar Chumparun, or Bettiah, has not been so fortunate, as it suffered severely during the great famine of 1770, when almost half the inhabitants are supposed to have perished. Besides this, the zemindars of Chumparun having for many years been deprived of their lands, which were leased to ignorant and rapacious farmers of the revenue, experienced such oppression, that the majority of the population which survived the famine, were obliged to abscond, leaving the country almost a desert. Since that melancholy epocha, the zemindars have been re-established by the decennial settlement, many of the ancient inhabitants have returned, and cultivation has been prosecuted.

The Bettiah division is situated at the northern extremity, and in 1784, when annexed to Chumparun, the aggregate area of both was 2546 square miles; and it is remarkable, that it was never properly subjugated, until after the acquisition of the dewanny by the Company in 1765. The chief towns are

in their respective estimates of the proportion which the Mahommedans bore to the Hindoos, the judge reckoning them one in 500, and the collector one in four. Comparing them with the adjacent districts they are probably about one in ten. (*Colebrooke, J. Grant, Boddam, J. R. Elphinstone, &c.*)

TERRIANI (*Turyani*).—The word Turyani properly signifies low marshy land, that is navigable, the name implying a country of boats; but by the Nepaulese the term is applied to the part of their kingdom situated on the great plain of Hindostan. The British portion of the Terriani is principally comprehended in the Sarun district, and is a flat uninteresting tract, in some parts bare of trees, but generally covered with a rank vegetation. Rice is the principal produce, and herds of cattle are scattered over the country, which in the dry season abounds with game, but during the rains these are obliged to seek shelter on the higher grounds. Such is the country to the edge of the forest, which borders the base of the mountains, from which the wild elephants issue at night, and commit depredations on the neighbouring rice fields.

The Nepaulese Terriani is a belt of much greater extent, and in general about 20 miles in breadth. In this space there are a few small hills scattered, and much poor high land overgrown with trees and bushes of little value, but there is also a very large proportion of rich land, and on the whole the soil is much better than in the adjacent parts of the British territories; but being less cultivated abounds more with wild beasts, such as elephants and rhinoceroses. The breed of the former is of an inferior description, and in general has a toe of one of its feet much lengthened, which gives it an unseemly appearance. In the wet season the elephants retire to the lower ranges of hills, but in the dry season they issue forth and prove very destructive to the crops. These incursions prevent the natives from being so attentive to the rice cultivation as they would otherwise be, so that although the surface of the Nepaulese Terriani is best adapted for that grain, the farmers rely chiefly on winter crops of wheat, barley, and mustard. Tigers are not so numerous as might have been expected; black bears of a large size are very troublesome; wild hogs, hog deer, hares, foxes, and jackals are to be found in abundance.

In the waste lands of the Nepaulese Terriani, the most common trees are the palas (*erythina monosperma*), and the simul (*bombax heptaphyllum*), but by far the greater proportion of these wastes is covered with long grass or reeds, which are burned once a year, in order to clear the country and improve the pasture. Owing to the moisture and coolness of the air, the fields at all seasons preserve some verdure; but the grass seems to be of a very bad quality, as the cattle, although plentifully supplied with it, are to the last degree wretched;—yet large herds are sent into these wastes from the British districts adjacent. The

room 167 feet long by 52 broad, with an octagon room at each end, and a raised set of rooms or open arches in the rear of the centre, the whole length, with fountains and basins of water under each arch. In front is an arcaded verandah, forming a very fine oblong room, narrower than the centre room, with a pierced or open work and dwarf balustrade, near the spring of the ceiling. No wood is used in any part of the building, which is wholly composed of brick and mortar masonry. It was repaired in 1815 by the present Nabob, Ghazi ud Deen.

Among the other curiosities in this neighbourhood is Constantia, the residence of the late General Claude Martin, which is said to have cost him £150,000 sterling. To the house is annexed a very noble garden and extensive mangoe clump; but the country round is a barren sand and dead flat. On the general's decease, the furniture was sold, and the girandoles and mirrors now adorn the government house at Calcutta. In 1810, Saadet Ali, the reigning Nabob Vizier, addressed a letter to Lord Minto, expressing his desire to have an iron bridge erected across the river Goomty, in the neighbourhood of his palace, and requesting the assistance of a professional person to survey the river and to carry it into execution.

On the death of the Nabob Shuja ud Dowlah in 1775, his successor, Asoph ud Dowlah, removed the seat of government to this place from Fyzabad, the prior capital. The bankers and men of property accompanied the court; and Lucknow, in a very few years, became one of the largest and richest towns of Hindostan, while its predecessor decayed with a proportionate rapidity. In 1800, the population was roughly estimated at 300,000, but it probably has since diminished, on account of the waning splendour of the Nabob's court and consequent limited expenditure. Among other establishments the Nabob has a menagerie, in which variety or utility has not been so much attended to as the oddities of nature; the rhinoceros being the only remarkable animal in the collection. Near to the stables a very large breed of Gujerat bullocks is kept; the introduction of which among the peasants generally, would be of infinite advantage to a country, where the draught cattle are so small and weak, as in the province of Oude.

The body of the Nabob Asoph ud Dowlah lies interred in a religious sepulchre lighted by a vast number of wax tapers, and having the grave strewed with flowers and gilt paper. On one side is a censer with various perfumes, on the other his sword and waistband, and opposite to his head lie his turban, and a copy of the Koran. The grave is covered with rich bread of barley from Mecca, and verses from the Koran are chanted day and night. Lucknow is mentioned by Abul Fazel as a considerable town, and is supposed to stand on

THE PROVINCE OF DELHI.

THE imperial province of Delhi is situated principally between the 28th and 31st degrees of north latitude. To the north it is bounded by Lahore, and northern Hindostan west of the Goggra; to the south by Agra and Ajmeer; on the east it has Oude, and Northern Hindostan; and on the west Ajmeer and Lahore. In length it may be estimated at 240 miles, by 180 the average breadth. By Abul Fazel, in 1582, it is described as follows:—

“The soubah of Delhi is in the third climate. The length from Pulwul to Ludebauneh, on the banks of the Sutuleje, is 165 coss; and the breadth from circar Rewary to the mountains of Kemaon, is 140 coss; and again from Hissar to Khyzirabad it is 130 coss broad. On the east lies Agra; on the north-east quarter is Khyrabad, in the province of Oude; to the north are mountains; on the south the boundaries are Agra and Ajmeer, and Ludehauneh confines it on the west. The principal rivers are the Ganges and Jumna, both of which have their sources in this soubah, and there are also many lesser streams. The climate is very temperate. Most of the lands are inundated during the rains, and some places produce three harvests in the year. The rhinoceros is frequently hunted in circar Sembhel. This soubah contains eight circars, viz. 1, Delhi; 2, Budayoon; 3, Kemaun; 4, Sembhel; 5, Saharunpoor; 6, Rewary; 7, Hissar Ferozeh; 8, Sirhind. These circars are divided into 232 pergunnahs; the measured lands are 28,546,816 begahs; the amount of the revenue 601,615,555 dams; out of which 33,075,739 are seyurghal.”

In the above description there are more inaccuracies than in most others by Abul Fazel, which is remarkable considering the central position of the Delhi province, and that it had so long contained the capital of the empire. The principal modern geographical and political subdivisions are the following:

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| 1. The assigned territories | 7. District of North Saharunpoor |
| 2. Rohilcund | 8. District of South Saharunpoor or Merut |
| 3. District of Bareilly | 9. Hurrianna |
| 4. District of Mooradabad | 10. Sirhind |
| 5. District of Shahjehanpoor | 11. Pattialah and various petty Seik states. |
| 6. Rampore Jaghire | |
- The British possessions west of the Jumna, before the incorporation of the