

THE  
HISTORY, ANTIQUITIES,  
TOPOGRAPHY, AND STATISTICS  
OF  
EASTERN INDIA;

16014  
COMPRISING THE DISTRICTS OF

BEHAR, SHAHABAD, BHAGULPOOR, GORUCKPOOR,  
DINAJEPOOR, PURANIYA, RUNGPOOR, & ASSAM,

IN RELATION TO THEIR

GEOLOGY, MINERALOGY, BOTANY, AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE, MANU-  
FACTURES, FINE ARTS, POPULATION, RELIGION, EDUCATION,  
STATISTICS, ETC.

SURVEYED UNDER THE ORDERS OF THE SUPREME GOVERNMENT,

AND

COLLATED FROM THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS AT THE E. I. HOUSE,

WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE HONOURABLE COURT OF DIRECTORS,



BY

Robert MONTGOMERY MARTIN,

AUTHOR OF THE "*History of the British Colonies*," &c.

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IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

BEHAR (PATNA CITY) AND SHAHABAD.

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LONDON:

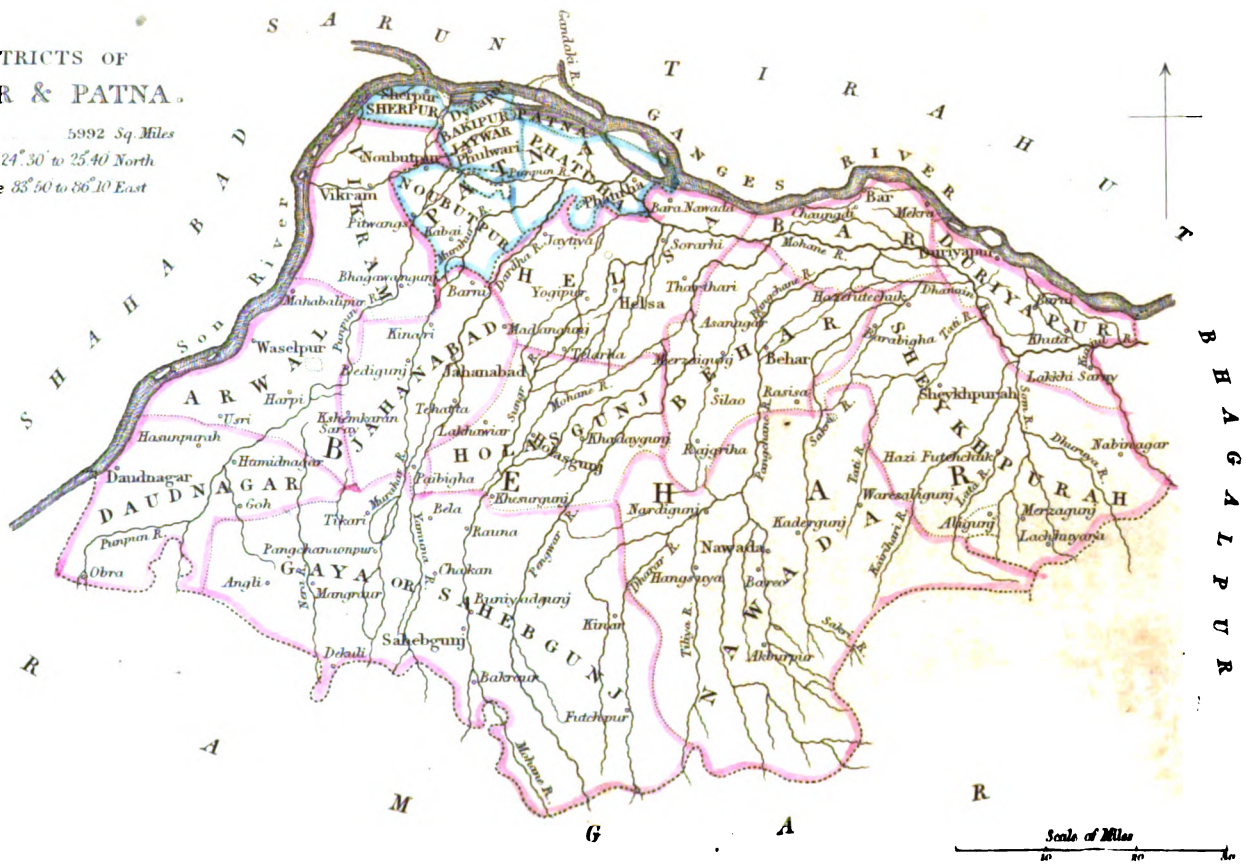
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DUPLICATE:  
TO BE KEPT.

# DISTRICTS OF BEHAR & PATNA.

Area 5992 Sq. Miles  
 Latitude 24° 30' to 25° 40' North  
 Longitude 85° 50' to 86° 10' East



attack either kind of tiger ; but hunters in some years come and kill one or two. The *Kohiya*, or wild dog, visits also these districts, usually in Spring. Jackals are not numerous, and there are but few wolves. The small Indian fox (*Canis Bengalensis Pennant*) is not uncommon. There are very few porcupines ; but in the drier parts of these districts hares are very numerous, and by the lower classes are a good deal sought after for eating. They are caught both by dogs and nets. The small striped squirrel (*Gilhari, Rukki*) is exceedingly numerous both in houses and plantations. It is a beautiful lively creature, very familiar and active.

No wild elephants haunt these districts, but a very few make occasional incursions from the wilds of Ramgar. In Nawada these incursions were formerly frequent and destructive. It some years ago happened, that a Brahman had prepared from the poisonous root of Nepal, called here *Dakra*, a certain oil used as an external remedy in disease ; when, the elephants coming, one of them accidentally eat of the oil, and died. On this some low people made balls of this oil, mixed with grain and other things, of which the elephant is fond, and having placed these balls in the way of the herd, 15 or 16 were killed ; since which these cunning animals have given no farther trouble to that vicinity. There are no rhinoceroses. Wild hogs are occasionally seen, but they are nowhere numerous nor destructive, being eagerly pursued by the lower castes, who eat this flesh. The antelope cervicapra (*Bareta*) is the only animal included by the natives in the generic term *Harin*, that I saw, and it seems chiefly confined to the vicinity of the Rajagriha hills, nor even there is it common. There are several other animals which the natives refer to this genus ; such as the *Ghoraraj* mentioned in my account of Bhagalpur ; the *Chitra*, which is probably the *Cervus axis* ; the *Kod*, which is probably the stag ; and the *Derk*, which is probably the *Cervus muntiac*. All these animals are scarcely ever seen, except just towards the boundary of Ramgar. There are a few monkeys of the long tailed kind. There are no wild buffaloes, nor are these districts ever visited by the wild animal of the ox kind, mentioned in the account of Bhagalpur. In fact, wherever industrious man appears, all these pernicious animals must give way, and nothing but a want of exertion can be assigned as

cent., which with the taxes will amount to about 83,000 rs., leaving a neat profit of 1,83,000 rs. Deducting the utmost, that can be allowed for ground given free of rent, for houses, the clear gain will be more than double the revenue. The assessment it must be observed is high, and the tenures good, by far the greater part being let for a fixed money rent, and cultivated in whatever manner the tenant pleases; and scarcely any of the rent is farmed.

Pergunah Phulwari (Phoolwari Glad) is a fine estate, composing the greater part of the division of Bakipur-Jaywar with a very little scattered in the division of Arwal. In the public accounts it is supposed to contain 68,952 bigahs of Lodikhan's measurement, of which 25,565 are not assessed. According to my estimate this estate, besides rivers, roads, tanks, canals, broken corners, &c. contains 1,24,100 such bigahs; and, if such be the case, the free land may probably have grown to 46,000, and the assessed may contain 78,000 of such bigahs, which pay annually 39,016½ rs. or very nearly 1 r. for 2 Calcutta bigahs, which is a higher rate, than in the immediate vicinity of the town of Patna, with so little regard to equality has the assessment been conducted. It is even alleged, that the free lands actually amount to one-half of the whole. In which case the assessment will be considerably higher. The whole estate is cultivated with the utmost pains, as might be expected. The assessed lands in the public accounts are divided into 70 lots, belonging to a number of Maleks, mostly decent looking peasants. Only about one-eighth of the land pays a money rent, chiefly the land near the houses occupied with sugar cane, rice, wheat, barley, poppy, cotton, and vegetables. It pays from 1½ to 8 rs. a bigah of the country measure, probably on an average about 3 rs. which will be about 1 9-6ths rs. for one of the Calcutta standard. The remainder pays by a division of the crop; after deducting the harvest, the master taking nine parts, and the cultivator seven. The average produce of such land may be worth about 3 rs. a Calcutta bigah, deducting 11½ per cent. for the expense of the harvest, there will remain 42½ anas, 9-16ths of which are equal to very near 1½ r. for rent. Upon the whole the gross rent may be about 1½ r. and the revenue may be one-third of the amount; but besides the expense of collection, usual in the districts hitherto surveyed, the landholders here have had to construct and keep in repair a considerable number of reservoirs and canals, although not so many as in the southern parts of these districts.

Geyaspur (Ghiasspoor Glad) is a very great estate, comprehending almost the whole of Bar, a very large share of Duriyapur, a considerable portion of Helsa, and a small part of Phatuba, all along the banks of the Ganges; and in the interior it has a great deal in Sheykhpurah, and a little in Behar. In the revenue accounts it is stated to contain 4,60,586 bigahs of assessed land, and 2,26,737 bigahs that are free. It is alleged, that the river has made considerable encroachments, and from the appearance of what it would appear to occupy on the maps, I can scarcely think that it contains more than the records state. The assessed land pays only 83,887 rs. a year; but it has been burthened with 5,559 bigahs for the invalid establishment, equal to about 10,800 of Lodikhans measure. Deducting

these, as having hitherto produced little or nothing to the proprietors, they will have 62 bigahs Calcutta measure for 10 rs. Owing to this assessment, it is not so fully occupied, as the estates hitherto described; the cultivation is careless, a good deal of pulse being sown in the mud without ploughing; and the average produce of a Calcutta bigah is not estimated at above 2 r. 12 a. It is divided into 212 lots, the owners of which as usual are called Maleks, and are mostly military Brahmans, whose families claim possession for many ages, and who are a bold turbulent race of men. I am assured by a venerable invalid officer, that when he first received land, a great part of the vicinity was waste, and infested with the tiger, rhinoceros, and elephant. These destructive animals have since been banished, and all near the Ganges has been entirely cleared; but in the interior, owing to the lowness of the assessment, there is still some waste, and the cultivation is careless, nor has any considerable number of reservoirs been constructed for watering the land. The same officer informed me, that near the river no land was let for less than 1 r. and much brought three times that sum for the customary bigah, which is at the rate of from 8 1-3rd anas to 25 8-10ths anas for the bigah of the Calcutta measure. The lands there liable to inundation, and sown without cultivation, are mostly let by a division of the crop, and produce a trifle; where regularly cultivated, they rent almost as high as the elevated banks of the Ganges. The leases are from five to nine years, but the tenants pretend, that they must be renewed on the same terms. It is however said, that Mr. Smith, lately judge of the district, gave a decision to the contrary; and, as I have said, it is highly expedient, that such should be established as the law. Scarcely any of the rents are farmed; and it is owing to this probably, to the high rents, and to little of the rent being paid by a division of the crop, that the estate is in such a good condition; for the assessment is much too low.

Haveli-Behar (Bahar Glad) is a very fine estate, situated chiefly in the division of the same name; but it has also a considerable portion of Sheykhpurah, some in Bar, and a trifle in Helsa. In the public records no estimate is to be found of the extent of its assessed lands; but it contains 32,955 bigahs, which pay no revenue. So far as I can judge from the extent of the map, it would appear in all to contain 2,05,000 of Lodikhans bigahs; and, allowing that the proprietors of the free lands may in reality occupy 40,000, the assessed will be 1,65,000, which pay 80,164 rs. so that the owners have 238 Calcutta bigahs for 100 rs. The assessed part is divided into 174 lots; but many of the Maleks have lost the management of their estates, and receive from the present Zemindars or from the occupants of free land one-tenth of the neat proceeds. Very little of the rent is farmed; three-quarters of the rent are paid in money, one-quarter by a division of the crop. The leases specify the number of bigahs, and the rate, that is to be paid, the money not being fixed, by what is called Hust-budi, while the landlord in the division of crops takes nine-sixteenths of the produce. The leases are seldom renewed, so that the tenants are moveable at will; but this is seldom attempted, nor has the rate been of late raised; six-sixteenths have been added to the cultivation

# DISTRICT OF SHAHABAD.

Area ——— 4650 Sq. Miles  
 Lat<sup>de</sup> 24°.33' to 25°.43' North  
 Long<sup>de</sup> 83°.10' to 84°.50' East



## CHAPTER IV.

## ANIMALS, VEGETABLES, MINERALS, ETC. OF SHAHABAD.

**TIGERS**, bears and monkeys are as numerous as in Behar. The Kohiya or wild dog is evidently very distinct from every species described by Linnæus, Buffon, Gmelin, Pennant or Shawe. In its manners it more resembles the dog than any other species of the canine tribe; but in its external appearance, both shape and colour, it comes nearer the European fox: it is however larger, and the end of the tail is bent down like that of the wolf: it may be distinguished from other kindred animals by having a compressed tail, in which respect it resembles the hunting leopard; and this circumstance, no doubt, gives both animals a power of turning with great rapidity when in full pursuit of their prey.

The jackall is very subject to hydrophobia, and in this state often attacks men, to whom it communicates the disease. Hares are exceedingly numerous. Neither wild elephants nor rhinoceroses are known. The Sombar or Sawar, is the large brown deer, like the stag, which has been mentioned in the account of Ronggpur. The Bhojpur Raja had one of the males tame, and assured me that it never acquires more than two branches to each horn, one near the brow, the other near the extremity. This not only agrees entirely with what I have seen, but, as the Raja is a very keen hunter, confirms my opinion of this animal being a distinct species from the red deer, which on account of the greater number of branches on its horns, is in some places called Baro Singga, or the twelve-horned deer. The Sambar chiefly frequents the hilly parts of this district, especially the narrow and winding recesses in the sides of the table-land. The red deer, so far as I could learn, is not found in this district; but the Sambar is a still more noble animal, and among the Kharwar of the hills is rather classed with the cow than with the deer. The Axis or spotted deer is found in all the woods of the low country. The Porcine deer is also found among long grass in the skirts of woods, and is a species worth rearing, as it is very easily rendered familiar. In the woods of Jagadispur I