

JOTTINGS

OF AN

INVALID IN SEARCH OF HEALTH,

COMPRISING

A RUN THROUGH BRITISH INDIA AND A VISIT TO
SINGAPORE AND JAVA.

60059
a.

A SERIES OF LETTERS REPRINTED FROM THE "TIMES OF INDIA."

BY

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PRACTICAL SUBJECTS."

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P R E F A C E.

THESE "Jottings" were written expressly for the *Times of India*, in which journal they first appeared. I subsequently contemplated reprinting them in the shape in which they are now presented to the public. Their title is apt to mislead the reader who for the first time sees it; and judging from the general repute of "invalid's" books, it is likely that in some instances mine may receive a summary judgment of condemnation from its title alone. Let me assure the reader, however, that these "Jottings" are an account of what I saw and did at the various places I visited. I do not pretend to any literary excellence; the incidents of my travel, which were interesting to myself, and which I hoped would be informing to others, I jotted down; and I have also supplied information which will, I am sure, be found of service to intending travellers.

My contributions to the *Times of India*, extending over several years, have passed under the *nom de plume* of "TOM CRINGLE;" but in this formal introduction of myself to the reader, I superscribe my inherited and humble name,

WM. WALKER.

Bombay, August 14th, 1865.

P. S.—I close my Indian career this day, after a very diversified and chequered residence of twenty-nine years.

GENERAL NEILL.

Alas ! a song is oft dashed by a tear,—
 A bright day darkened by a rainy cloud,—
 A festal roof by joy's weight over-bowed,—
 A bridal train met by a sable bier,—
 And oftentimes, when the trumpet rings out clear
 In tones of triumph full, and long, and loud,
 Low muffled drums behind a bloody shroud
 Smite with a dull, deep sadness on the ear.
 Our "victory is dimmed." O Heart so brave,
 So dauntless, self-reliant ! O firm hand,
 Wielding the dazzling sword which Justice gave
 A moment to thy grasp with strong command !
 We thinking of thy red and early grave,
 'Mid joy of triumph, sad and downcast stand !

This "Jotting" has been a sad one, but I must conclude it with a touching picture of a brave Christian man meeting death with his brave wife. Here we see the old Viking blood welling up from its sleep of centuries to assert its old indomitable courage—a courage which never despairs though hope has fled. We see the same never-yielding courage in our American brethren, although exerted in a cause which only heathendom rejoices in, but whereat all Christians lament.

MAJOR SKENE AND HIS WIFE.

Stand firm a little longer, fair true wife,
 With thy pale face so sad, and yet so grand
 In its deep calm, the sight whereof has manned
 My agonizing heart. The air is rife
 With thickly showering bullets, and the strife
 Grows more despairing. Load with thy white hand
 Steadily, dearest : now in this red land
 We fight more for a stainless death than life.
 'Tis all in vain ; they swarm around, and we,—
 We two, with this brave dead one at our feet,—
 May not withstand. I kiss thee tenderly,
 They shall not torture thee, nor grieve thee, sweet,
 I nerve my hand,—my arm enfolding thee,—
 In quietness our rescued spirits meet !

TOM CRINGLE.

February 25th, 1864.

LUCKNOW.

No. XVI.

At the Cawnpoor station dak-gharries are in waiting when the trains arrive, to take passengers on to Lucknow or elsewhere. The distance to Lucknow is 50 miles, and the charge is sometimes Rs. 9, when business is slack. I paid for a fine new roomy gharry Rs. 12. When passengers hire dak-gharries for long

" 4.—The Kudum Rusool, or prophet's foot print, is a beautiful place of worship, built by Gazee-ood-deen Hyder on a mound artificially raised. It contained a stone bearing the impress of the foot of the Prophet, brought from Arabia by a pilgrim. During the rebellion the holy stone was carried off, but the author of the sacrilege is not known.

" 5.—The Nujuf Ashraf, more commonly called the Shah Nujuf, is the tomb of the first King of Oudh, Ghazee-ood-deen Hyder, built by himself for this object. It derives its name from Nujuf, the hill on which the tomb of Ali, the son-in-law of Mahomèd, is built, of which tomb this building is said to be a copy. A fund was left by Ghazee-ood-deen to keep the place in repair, and to maintain an establishment of priests. It was before this tomb that the Commander-in-Chief met with the severest opposition in the relief of Lucknow. Sir William Peel's heavy guns were brought up close under the walls, which they battered for upwards of two hours, and it was here that Brigadier Adrian Hope distinguished himself, by going alone to seek for an unguarded wicket-gate, which he found just as our troops at last made their entrance by the breach.

" 6.—The pile of buildings known by the name of the Motee Muhul, and now occupied by the Commissariat Establishment, includes three separately-named and distinct buildings. The Motee Muhul properly so called, was built by Sadut Ali Khan, and forms the northern part of the enclosure. It owes its name to the fancied resemblance of a dome in it (now destroyed) to the curve of a pearl. Along the river face Gazee-ood-deen Hyder built the Mobaruk Munzil and the Shah Munzil, the latter being close to the present bridge of boats, the former east of it. The Shah Munzil was the scene of the celebrated wild beast fights. The smaller animals were put to fight inside the enclosure of the Shah Munzil, and the combats between tigers, &c., also took place there, strong cages and a safe arena having been provided. But the fights between elephants and rhinoceroses, which required to be viewed at a safe distance, took place across the Goomtee on the level ground in front of the Hazaree Bagh, the King and the court watching them from the verandah of the Shah Munzil.

" 7.—The Tarawallie Kothie or Observatory was built by Nuseer-ood-deen Hyder, under the superintendence of Colonel Wilcox, the Astronomer Royal, and was provided with very excellent instruments. The Colonel died in 1847, and Wajid Ali Shah dismissed the establishment. The astronomical instruments were carefully put by, but disappeared in the rebellion, and were probably broken up by the rebels. The Fyzabad Moulvie, Ahmedullah Shah, (known as Danka Shah, from his always having a drum beaten before him when he went out,) made it his head quarters during the rebellion, and the rebel Parliament used frequently to hold its meeting there.

" 8.—The space in front of the Tarawallie Kothie, between it and

probable account is that the house was built, under Sadut Ali's direction, by a Frenchman, whose name tradition has lost, though it preserves in the word Moosa a remembrance of its prefix, Monsieur.

"23.—There are no buildings in the city itself particularly worthy of mention for their beauty, or interesting for their antiquity or historical associations. The Chouk was built in Asf-o-dowla's time, but of the two gates at each end of it the southern one is said to belong to an earlier date. It is called the Akbarry Durwaza, and native report goes that Akbar Shah himself passed through Lucknow on his way to Nepaul, and after reducing the Raja of Nepaul to submission, returned through Lucknow again and set up this gate. This story is not supported by history, and is for many reasons unlikely, '*Post hoc, ergo propter hoc*' (if we may parody it to mean 'named after a man, and therefore built by him') is a principle which explains the origin of a great many native reports and local traditions. A more likely story is that one of the Soobadars of Oude built and called it by the name of the founder of his Soobah.

"24.—Proceeding along the Cawnpore road from the Chouk we come to two singular Durgahs, or Mahomedan shrines, one, the Kasmain, built by Shruf-o-dowlah, and said to be a copy of the tomb of the two Imams, Moosa Kazim and Reza Kazim at Khorason, and the other built by Dianut-o-dowlah on the model of the tomb of the Imam Hossein at Kurbal. But except when these places are illuminated for the Mohurram, there is nothing to repay a visit, and they seem built to test the extent of ugliness which human ingenuity is capable of reaching. The Durgah of Huzrut Abbas is another place of sanctity and resort. Here Sadut Ali is said to have received a sudden 'awakening,' which changed him from a wild and vicious young man to the sober practical statesman he became. But this story is rather apocryphal. Mulka Jehan's great house is remarkable for its vast extent, as being a town of itself in the heart of the city, but on no other account is it at all interesting."

TOM CRINGLE.

February 28th, 1864.

RETURN TO AGRA.

No. XVII.

After my visit to Cawnpore and Lucknow I returned to Agra, the principal buildings of which I have already described.

The public gardens and bandstand of Agra ought to be objects of much pride to her people, as they are well laid out,