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K.K. Venugopal

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A

**PICTURESQUE TOUR**

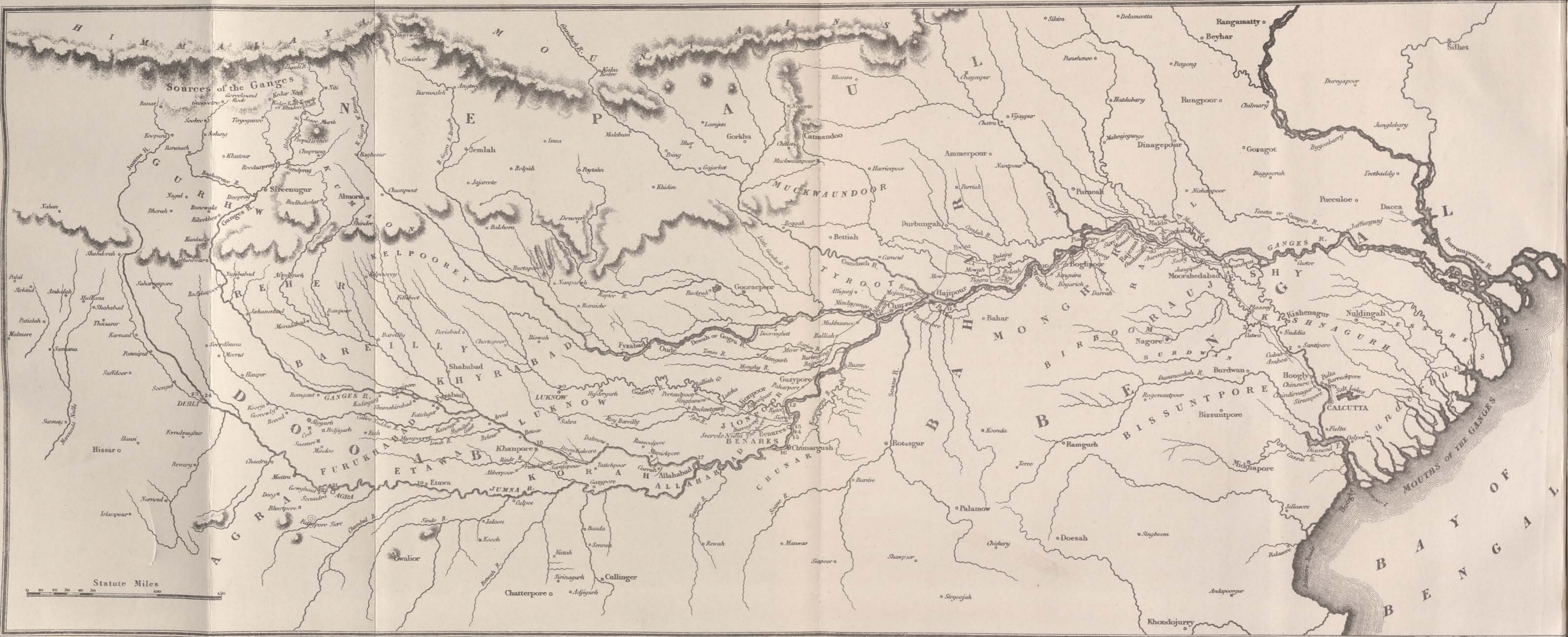
ALONG THE

**RIVERS GANGES AND JUMNA,**

IN INDIA

# SKETCH OF THE RIVERS GANGES AND JUMNA.

FROM THEIR MOUTH'S, TO THEIR ISSUE FROM THE MOUNTAINS.



# P R E F A C E.

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**I**T is with some feeling of diffidence that the author of the following pages ventures to submit to the notice of the British public this his first effort. He trusts, however, to that indulgent consideration and that encouraging approbation which, on all occasions, distinguish his countrymen in their judgment on works of science or of art.

It was thought advisable by the author, with the view to excite the attention and increase the interest of such of his readers as are little acquainted with India, to give a correct but very compressed sketch of the history, customs, and manners of that wonderful empire. In this he has passed over no one event of importance, from its first origin in the gloomy clouds of superstition, through its gradual rise to a splendour rarely attained by nations, and thence to its sad and disastrous decline and downfall. It is therefore hoped that the following pages will be found to comprise a connected and satisfactory detail, extracted with much attention and labour from the best and most esteemed authorities, containing in its essence the matter of many large volumes.

With respect to the picturesque description of the Tour, the author can with perfect confidence appeal to those who have passed through the same scenes.

The drawings were all attentively copied from nature, and in many instances coloured on the spot, and always while the magic effects of the scenes represented were still impressed on his mental vision. The reader will recollect with indulgence, that the colouring of the views, which so far exceeds that of the scenery of Europe, is but a just portrait of the enchanting features of India, eternally glowing in the brilliant glory of the resplendent Asiatic sun.

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# Picturesque Tour

ALONG

## THE GANGES AND JUMNA.

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**C**ALCUTTA, the capital not only of Bengal but of all India, being the seat of government and residence of the governor-general and council, has been so much talked of, and so often described, that nothing new or interesting concerning it can be offered to the reader. The country in its immediate vicinity is flat and tame, sprinkled for the most part with the different varieties of the cocoa-nut and *palmyra*, or palm-tree. A traveller therefore, who visits Bengal from curiosity and a desire to explore its grander and wilder beauties, will not long tarry in its metropolis, but, deciding on the mode in which he will travel, make his preparations accordingly. These occupy but a short time, the natives being extremely handy and intelligent in all the various conveniences, or rather luxuries, requisite in moving with facility and comfort through this highly interesting country.

There are two modes of travelling used in India from the lower to the upper provinces; the one by land, the other by water. The latter is seldom chosen, except in the rainy season, when the winds are from the south-east, and blow sufficiently strong and steady to enable vessels to stem the very rapid currents encountered in many parts of the Ganges. A description of the establishment of a small fleet for these occasions may amuse such of my readers as have not visited India. The most usual vessels for this purpose are the pinnace and the budjerow. The former is generally preferred by Europeans, as being of a more roomy and stouter build, and

as sailing better, when the wind is not quite free, than the other. The pinnace has two masts, the larger or main-mast forward, and a small mizen: some have a top-mast and top-gallant. It is nearly flat-bottomed, and has a shallow keel. Its crew consists of a *mangee*, or master, and from twelve to twenty *dandies*, or boatmen, who tow the vessel by a long line when the wind fails, or trim the sails when it is favourable. These are a hardy race of beings, wear but little clothing, and though exposed in towing the boat for the whole day to a burning sun, and frequently up to the middle in water, their heads are not only without any turban or covering, but literally shaven quite bare. Their skull, probably from constant exposure, becomes hard and thick enough to resist the rays of the sun thus pouring on their naked sconces. The budjerow is a native-built vessel, round-bottomed, and much lighter than the pinnace; it has but one mast and a large lug-sail: it is by far the safest vessel of the two in the hands of the natives, as they better understand its management. Besides these two vessels, there are others appropriated solely for the servants; others as cooking-boats, for stores, &c.; and one for horses, which is fitted up as a complete stable. This fleet, when not favoured by wind, travels usually at the rate of about two miles per hour, so that twenty-five or thirty miles on the average are gained daily. It is customary to come to close to the river's bank a little before sunset, to allow the crew and servants to cook their dinners; since there are some sects or casts of the Hindoos who must not eat on the water. At daylight all are again under weigh.

The season of the year, however, at which we were to move, was not favourable for a water excursion, the river being too low. To my great delight therefore a march by land was decided on, and all the requisite preparations for such an undertaking were set on foot with the greatest dispatch. Hands are so plentiful, and servants so numerous, in India, that what appears difficult and likely to occupy much time is performed with inconceivable expedition.



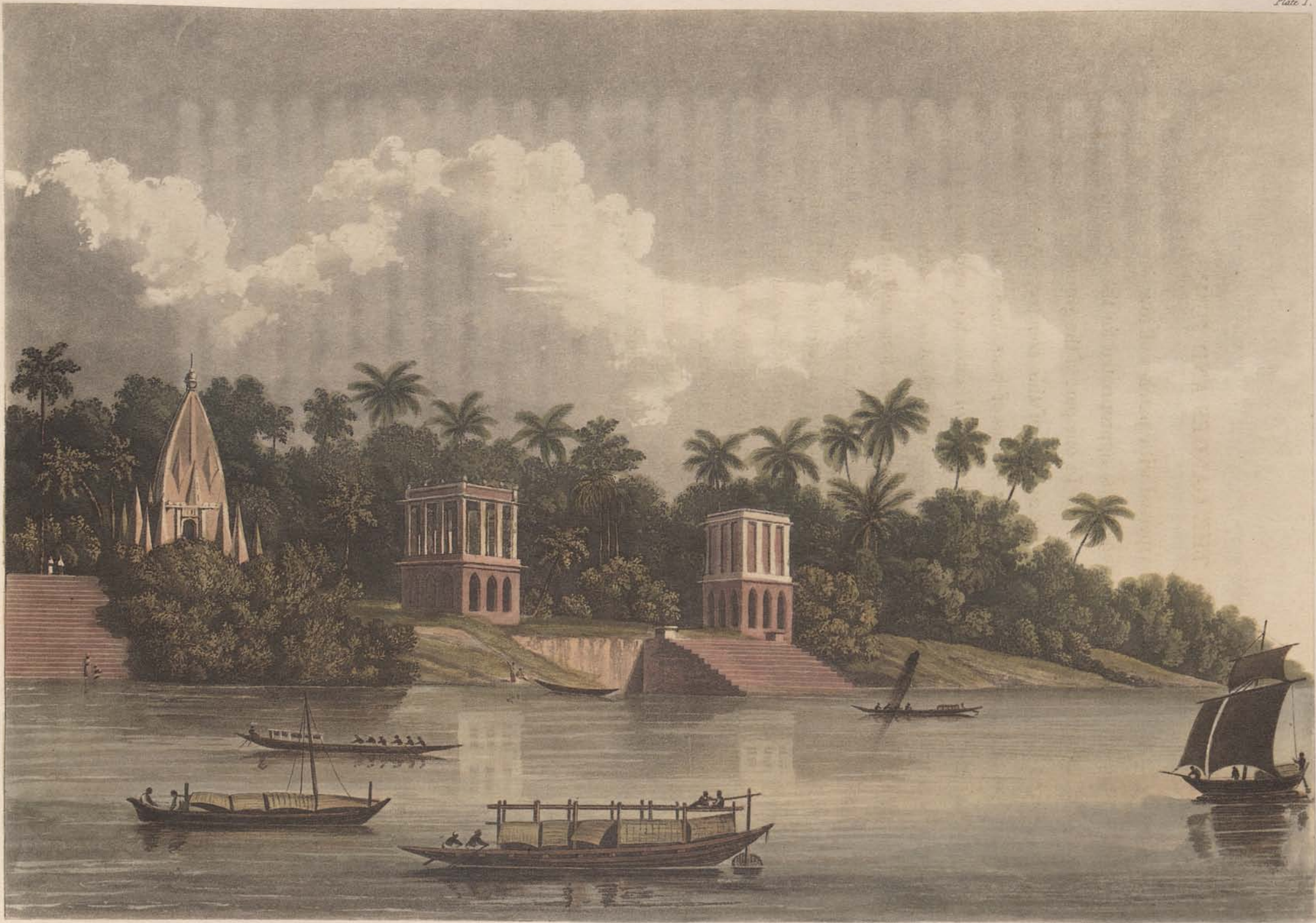
It may not be uninteresting to such of my readers as have not been in this country to give a slight sketch in this place of the retinue of servants, baggage-elephants, camels, horses, which, with a hundred et-ceteras, are indispensable on a journey by land. The best mode in which I can convey some idea of this is, by an enumeration of our party and its train, which, although it may appear large to some of my readers, contained not one individual more than comfort required. None accompanied us for mere state. Our party consisted of seven persons. We had three howdah-elephants, that is, animals trained for riding, hunting, and shooting, well broke, and with able *mahauts*, or leaders. Four others carried the camp-equipage, which consisted of two large marquees, each a sufficient load for an elephant, being about eighteen or twenty hundred weight. There were two smaller tents, besides others for the servants and guard of Sepoys; a light gig and horse, several saddle-horses, four palanquins, a cart, and hackery, or common cart of the country, with two bullocks to each. About two hundred servants and followers, and a guard of Sepoys, or native infantry, of forty men and a native officer, attended us.

The road called the old road was the route we proposed to take, although somewhat longer than the new; but as it was desirable to visit several cantonments of troops on the way, and as the supplies were more abundant upon this line, the former was preferred. The season was the very best for our purpose, having the whole of the cold weather before us. We left Calcutta the evening of the 2d Dec. 1807, and our first day's march was to Barrackpore, where is the country-seat of the governor-general: it is sixteen miles north of Calcutta, and most beautifully situated on the left bank of the river Hoogly, the principal navigable branch of the Ganges, and on which Calcutta is seated. The house is not remarkable either for size or accommodations, but it commands a fine and extensive view of the river, here about a quarter of a mile wide, having the old Danish settlement of Serampore on the opposite bank. The grounds of the domain are extensive, varied in feature, and

undulating in graceful swells, interspersed with patches of low wood and scattered trees, among which several neat bungalows, appropriated for the accommodation of the staff of the governor-general, are seen. In one part of the grounds is a menagerie, comprising a tolerable collection of the animals of this country. Among these are two fine young tigers, a large wild boar, a species of bear, native of the upper provinces, and designated by Buffon under the name of ant-eater; and another bear, of a species never before seen in this country, of which it is a native, and equally unknown I believe in Europe. It partakes both of the form and nature of the bear and mastiff-dog, having its body shaped like the former, with the clumsy and awkward action and long claws of that animal; but the round form of the head and short ears, the wiry and sleek black hair on the body, and, above all, the lapping up its drink, would stamp it of the dog kind: it has a deep orange band round its throat. It seemed tolerably tame, and ate roots and fruits with avidity. Here are also several very beautiful neil-gais, antelopes, spotted and hog deer, a moose-deer, and a sloth; and of birds, the flamingo, cyraus, pelicans, and a toucan; also several ostriches and cassowaries.

A short distance below Barrackpore, towards Calcutta, some very beautiful and picturesquely situated pagodas furnish the subject of the *First Plate*. They are built with the cutcha, or unburnt brick of the country, and covered with a coating of chunam (a fine stucco), as purely white as marble, and bearing as high a polish. These buildings are backed by a luxuriant growth of every variety of the palm tribe, united with the pliant bamboo, from the dark contrasting masses of which they relieve admirably; and the scene, viewed from the opposite bank of the river, is much enlivened by the quickly gliding boats, of every varied size and model, which are seen passing to and fro in great numbers on the expansive bosom of the Ganges.

Near the governor-general's house at Barrackpore are a large cantonment and permanent huts for four battalions of Sepoys, always stationed here. On the 3d



G. Hunt sculp.

HINDOO PAGODAS below BARRACKPORE,  
ON THE GANGES.

December, having sent off our heavy baggage to await our arrival at Hoogly, we crossed the river at Pulta Ghaut. The current here was so rapid, that to get the baggage, horses, &c. into the boats, crossing them, and swimming the elephants over, occupied three hours. Moved on again, and passing through Ghyretti, the French settlement of Chandénagurh, and also Chinsura, belonging to the Dutch, each containing the remains of a fort, we reached our tents at five o'clock in the evening.

On the following morning at sunrise we again moved on through a finely cultivated line of country, crossing several nullahs or channels, worn by the torrents in the rainy season, now nearly dry. Some of these exceed one hundred yards in breadth, and their beds being very deep, a large body of water must sometimes rush down them. We encamped near the small village of Nia Serai. The early part of this morning was so sharp and cold, that I found a fur pelisse very agreeable. The thermometer stood at noon in the shade at 76°, at night 50°. The country over which we passed the following day was mostly cultivated in rice-fields: the crops were off at this time, and the whole of the ground was cracked by the heat of the sun into fissures of a great depth. Near Inchura, where we halted, was a very extensive and beautiful piece of water left by the rains, called a *jeel*: we walked to it in the afternoon; it was covered with vast flights of teal and other birds of the duck kind; but although we had our guns with us, they were so wild, that we could not get one shot. During the greater part of this night we were tormented by the doleful yells and horrid cries of numerous packs of jackalls, who roam in the dark in search of prey, and visit the villages for plunder. Their cry very much resembles what might be supposed to be that of a human being under the most excruciating torture. Sleep was out of the question.

*7th December.* Road still over rice-grounds, and very bad riding; we were compelled also to ford several wide and extensive jeels, all shallow. Passed Ambooah, a small village on the Hoogly river; and near it, on a projecting point, a small se-

cluded Hindoo village, embosomed in a verdant group of the richest foliage. Its small and pretty pagoda or temple, of a reddish stone, rears its cone-like form above the wooded screen which surrounds it; and, with some of the singularly formed boats, with their matted or bamboo awnings, produced on the whole a scene highly characteristic of this portion of the Ganges. It is represented in *Plate II*.

One mile beyond Ambooh is Culna, a large Hindoo village, close upon the bank. A short distance beyond this, in a bend of the river, the ground was covered, for an extent of full half a mile, with human skulls, washed up and left by the floods in the last rainy season. We here saw a species of the banian tree, called the *peepul*: it was filled with green parrots and monkeys, who seemed to vie with each other which could make the greatest noise. Hence the road was exceeding good to Mirzapore, on high ground; the Hoogly river on our right, and a richly wooded country to our left.

It was our daily practice to send forward a small tent at midnight, with the breakfast apparatus for the following morning, so that on arriving at our new ground we found that meal always ready; and by the time it was completed, unless when the march was an unusually long one, the other tents were up, and in one hour more our little town was perfectly established.

Next morning we were at Commeera, and the following at Aughadeep. We crossed the Hoogly river by a ferry at Chandénagurh, where the stream is about 200 yards wide: it is the westernmost branch of the Delta of the Ganges.

We now succeeded in getting our encampment regularly pitched, and more compact than at our first starting. We had some difficulty to prevail upon the natives to come into our plan, but by persevering they did so; and we found it much easier to guard at night from the expert thieves, who are always on the look-out for plunder, especially when Europeans pass their villages.

On the 10th we encamped, and passed the night on the celebrated field of Plassy,



*T. Sutherland sculp.*

HINDOO VILLAGE on the GANGES.  
NEAR AMBOOAH.

*London. Published by RACKEMANN, 101 Strand, July 1. 1824.*

where a decisive and obstinately contested battle took place between the Company's troops under Colonel, afterwards Lord Clive, and the Nuwab of Moorshedabad, in which the latter was totally defeated.

Having passed the village of Burrah on the following day, we turned off the main road, which proceeds to the cantonment of Berhampore, to Jungipore, having engaged ourselves to pass a short time with a civilian of rank resident there, at whose hospitable mansion we remained four days.

On the 17th we again proceeded on our journey, and advancing through the Island of Cossimbazar, passed in the course of our route several of those bunds, or banks, erected for the purpose of preventing the waters of the river from overflowing the island in the rainy season.

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I once had occasion to proceed on duty from Calcutta to Berhampore on the Cossimbazar river, a branch of the Ganges, which, uniting with another, the Jellinghy, at Nuddea, forms the Hoogly river, which descends to Calcutta, and is the only free and uninterrupted communication by water between that capital and the Upper Ganges.

I left Calcutta in the month of August, and in the height of the rainy season, it having poured incessantly for six weeks. Our pinnace ascended the Hoogly, and passing Barrackpore, soon after entered a perfect sea, for the expanse of waters had no visible bounds. We continued to run thus over the country through patches of wood, and every now and then passed villages, perched either on the summit of mounds, artificially constructed, or on small natural hills; some of these rearing their spiral pagodas, white as alabaster, with their straw-thatched bamboo cabins, backed by a rich group of wood, in which the palmyra reared its towering height and fan-like leaves, the bamboo waved its graceful and feathery branches, and the plantain threw around its immense leaves of the most vivid green in every fantastic

form: these, and the groups of the admiring natives, eagerly gazing on our passing fleet, formed, on the whole, a singularly striking and interesting scene. This apparently destructive flood, an epithet with which it would assuredly be coupled in most regions of the world, is here the greatest blessing heaven can bestow: it spreads fertility and plenty over the tract it seems to devastate, and renders Bengal one of the richest and most flourishing provinces of the earth. We occasionally came upon the river where the channel was deep, and there the current was excessively rapid. We stopped the whole of one day near the village of Cutwah, which is situated on the right bank of the Hoogly, and extends along it a considerable distance: it has numerous ghauts, of one of which a view is given (*Plate III.*), with the Hindoo pagoda attached, and some of the larger boats of the country, used for the transport of merchandise.

The upper part of the Cossimbazar branch of the Ganges is exposed sometimes to more danger: there, when the river has a very sudden rise, it pours so great a mass of its waters into the numerous channels extending from the mouth of the Jellinghy to that of the Cossimbazar, near the village of Sooty, which all unite in the Hoogly below, forming the Cossimbazar Island, that the bed of the latter stream is unable to contain the congregated flood pouring into it from every direction; the waters are arrested, and consequently rise far higher than they can do below this obstacle.

To guard against this pressure of the waters, bunds or banks, of great height and immense solidity, have, by the direction of the East India Company, been constructed, and are kept up at a vast expense: still, the art of man is not equal to cope with the efforts of Nature; massive as these bounds are, they are but too often carried away, when a scene of destruction ensues not easily to be described.

I have passed, in descending from the upper provinces, through some of these branches of the Cossimbazar river: the velocity with which the stream hurried us onwards, and the wonderful effects evident at every turn on the soft yielding matter of which its banks were composed, produced an indescribable sensation of admiration





*G. Hunt sculp.*

GHAUT OF CUTWA,  
ON THE GANGES.



*J. Sutherland sculp<sup>t</sup>*

PART OF THE CITY OF MOORSHEDABAD,  
ANCIENT CAPITAL OF BENGAL.

*London. Published by R. ACKERMANN, 20 Strand, July 1789.*

mingled with terror, as we contemplated the foaming and furious torrent, lashing in the most angry manner all obstacles which it encountered in its course, hurrying banks and rocks and large trees before it like straws, while our boat most rapidly glided over its turbulent bosom in perfect safety.

The skill and judgment of the crew of our vessel were wonderful where the river took a sudden turn: the helm was useless, and here the greatest presence of mind was requisite in the one at the head, who, with surprising force and agility, darting his long bamboo pole against the opposing bank, turned the vessel in an instant into the new direction. Never can the impression made by this scene be effaced; never have I seen it equalled, save in the rapids of the mighty rivers of the Canadas. They not only equal but surpass it, in the superior vastness of their torrents, and the more wild, imposing, and gigantic character of their scenery.

Being anxious to see the ancient capital of the soubah of Bengal, always esteemed the finest, most important, and richest province of the empire, I this morning rode in that direction, though our party took a shorter route by the direct road, when I soon reached and entered Moorshedabad by a large and massive gateway of brick, covered with a coating of stucco; the parapet was pierced with embrasures for cannon, but there were none mounted. The city itself is wretched in the extreme, a mass of poor and mean sheds, some having the walls built of mud, others of the bamboo split and interwoven: there were a few brick square-built houses of one story, with flat roofs. The streets were narrow and filthily dirty, and I found the ride through the city sickening and tiresome in the highest degree. Its length is full seven miles. The view from the river is the best, and is given in *Plate IV*.

On the following day, the Nuwab of Bengal came in state to pay a visit of ceremony to the general officer commanding the station. He was received with a royal salute from the guns of the garrison of Berhampore. His train of attendants were attired in very gaudy, though at the same time shabby, apparel.

The order of the procession on this occasion was as follows: Several *hircaraks* or out-runners with silver staffs led the way, proclaiming aloud the titles of the Nuwab. Two men mounted on camels, called *shutur sewars*, followed; then a drum and trumpet on horseback, succeeded by the banner of the soubahship, carried by a man on a very large elephant. Then followed a number of smaller flags, which designated the rank his highness bore in the empire; the body guard of cavalry, and a guard of native militia; next his highness's state palanquin, borne on men's shoulders; a band of music; and immediately behind this the Nuwab, in a magnificently gilt and splendidly decorated car, followed by his prime vizir in a smaller one. Several of his officers came next mounted on horseback; and the procession was closed by about twenty elephants, as many camels, all in state trappings, and some state *ruths* (or small waggons used for carrying the women), drawn by the Hindoostannee bullocks of a large size.

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On the following day we came upon the main body of the Ganges, which we had not yet seen: it is here an immense and grand expanse of water, rather resembling an inland sea than a river. The opposite shore, being very low and flat, was scarcely to be distinguished; and looking up the stream, it had apparently no bounds.

After marching mostly by the bank of the Ganges for four more days, we began to lose traces of cultivation, and to encounter occasional tracts of jungle. On one occasion we came to a nullah, 40 or 50 yards wide, which for a time puzzled us to cross. There was a wooden bridge over it, and all the horses, carts, and persons on foot passed in safety, although its construction did not appear very strong: but no inducements, no urging, could prevail upon the loaded baggage-elephants to attempt it; when brought up to it they expressed the greatest alarm, striking the flooring of the bridge with their trunks, which seemed to convince them at once of its insufficiency to bear their ponderous bulk. The bed of the nullah was too shallow in

water for them to swim, and too deep in mud to ford. No resource remained but to try the experiment of unloading the elephants, pass them over the bridge light, and carry their loads after them. This was accordingly done, and perfectly comprehended by these sagacious animals, who now walked over cheerfully and confidently.

In expectation of some sport, being now in the vicinity of the Rajmahal hills, a group of mountains, which in this part separates the provinces of Bengal and Bahar, we halted one entire day at the village of Futhipore, and having procured from thence a *shekarri*, or in plain English, a poacher, well acquainted with the haunts of the different species of game with which these hills abound, we mounted our elephants, for it is thus that Indian sportsmen take the field, and formed a party of eight or nine persons. Several baggage-elephants with our servants accompanied us to beat the jungles, and a great many persons from the village with long bamboo poles volunteered for the same service, with a tribe of their common pariah or village dogs.

We saw, on entering the jungle, a great quantity of game of various sorts, as the wild buffaloes, hog-deer, wild hog, deer of different kinds, partridges, and chuck-ores (a large species of the partridge); florikens, a small species of the bustard, and the common domestic barn-door fowl of England in great numbers, called here the jungle fowl; and when we found open spots with partial cultivated fields, quail in great quantities, and very tame. We had a very pleasant day's sport, but our reward was only some of the partridges and quail. We got several shots at the buffaloes, and several we could hear distinctly hit; but the common leaden ounce-ball has no effect on these tough-skinned animals, unless it chances to hit a vital part, behind the ear, or fore-leg. The two-ounce rifle, with pewter balls, to be certain of your shot, the tiger and buffalo both require.

In the course of the day we came upon the tracks of a rhinoceros, several of which are found on these hills; we followed them some time, in hopes of coming up

with him: in some parts he appeared to have very recently passed, since the water was still muddy where he had trodden. Our pursuit was, however, in vain.

I had never entered so deeply into the jungles as I did this day, and I felt much delighted with the extremely curious scene they in several parts presented. The height of the grass struck me as particularly wonderful. I was mounted on a very fine elephant, not less than eleven feet high; the howdah, or seat fastened on the animal's back, must have been full two feet higher, it being strapped on a very thick pad: this would give thirteen feet. Now when standing upright, the attitude usually adopted by sportsmen when beating the jungle in order to see better around them, my head must have been near nineteen feet above the ground; but the grass was generally three, and in some places six, feet higher than my head. The stalks were full an inch and a half in diameter, and it would be almost impossible, certainly very fatiguing, to attempt to force a passage on foot through such a thicket, independent of the chance of meeting with a tiger on a sudden—by no means a pleasant *rencontre*.

Having satisfied ourselves with sporting, at the first open spot we found, which I perfectly recollect was a beautiful small natural meadow, surrounded on all sides by high jungles, and having a sweet clear stream trickling through its centre, we alighted from our elephants, sending them to get some forage for themselves, and then sat down very sociably to examine the contents of our provision-basket: we found it very well supplied, and our long ramble through the jungles made us do full justice to its contents. We were in fact enjoying ourselves much; our elephants had gone out of sight, and we were occupied with an ice-cold bottle of most excellent madeira, cooled in our spring, when a sudden and angry snort, not far from us, made us jump up in a hurry on our feet. We saw an immensely large and fierce male buffalo, wild and savage, who was glaring upon our party with his eyes of living fire and his scowling angry front. The male wild buffalo, when met in this

solitary state, is supposed to have been driven from the herd of favourite females by more powerful rivals: he is therefore always inclined to mischief, and is said to be more bold and ferocious than the tiger himself. Whether our present visitor was in this state or not, we were uncertain; the number of our party perhaps awed him. We called out lustily, however, for our elephants: they were, fortunately, within call. The first that came up were mounted by some of our party, who made for the buffalo with their guns all ready: he, however, turned tail, and entered the low jungle, declining battle. They got two shots at him, but whether they took effect or not, he disappeared, and we saw no more of him.

On the following day, 24th December, we passed the Ouda-nullah by a handsome Pucka bridge. This nullah is very large and deep, and a vast torrent must rush through it after the rainy season. Six miles further is the village of Rajmahal, and the ruins of a very grand and fine palace, the former residence of the nuwab, soubah, or viceroy of the province of Bahar: it is well situated on a most commanding eminence, its foot washed by the Ganges, here a noble river, of which it commands a fine view on one side, and on the other an equally grand one of the Rajmahal range of mountains.

Next day we passed the large nullah of Sirkunda, near which is the ruin of a noble building, a *dowlut kana*, or palace erected by Shah Jehan, emperor of Hindoostan, which must once have been a grand pile, and encamped at Mussaw. The Rajmahal hills were now very close to us, and presented a beautiful sight. Their forms are varied, but all swelling in gentle undulations. They are clothed with wood apparently throughout almost their whole extent: nevertheless there are cleared spots within their retired valleys, and some of the mountains even are deprived of their wood. It is singular that the race of people inhabiting these mountains, by no means inaccessible, should totally differ in stature, feature, language, manners, customs, and religion, from the Hindoos all around them. I walked one evening into the country

for some three or four miles, and met a few of these people: one of them talked a little in the common Hindoostanee. They were all nearly naked; the hair tied in a knot at the top of the head. They were well made, but rather low in stature, and carried bows made of bamboo, and arrows. They appeared mild and friendly, and their manner was prepossessing.

A corps was formed from among the natives of the Rajmahal group of mountains, and called the Hill-Rangers: they behaved well, and were far from indifferent soldiers.

I took a small boat this evening, and rowed out to some distance from the shore, to obtain a better view of the hills, and judge more accurately of their height. Several very beautiful breaks offered themselves as the sun sank behind them; and one, which I have included in the views (*Plate V.*) was the most picturesque.

Having now reached the northern confines of the province of Bengal Proper, and being about to enter that of Bahar, a few observations and remarks on the ancient and modern state, productions and general features of the surface of the province we have just traversed, may not be here inappropriate.

The rich and beautiful valley of the Ganges, extending from the bay of Bengal on the south, along both banks of that river, to the point whence it issues from the mountainous chain which bounds Hindoostan on the north, a distance of nearly fourteen hundred miles, is at present in possession of Great Britain.

This wonderfully fertile tract of country originally formed the empire of the Prasi and Gangaridæ, as described by the earlier Greek historians. These empires, being swept away by the enterprising and sanguinary Mahomedan invaders from the western parts of Asia, became transformed into mere provinces of the new empire of which these warriors were the founders. These comprised the provinces of Oude, Bengal, Bahar, Allahabad, and part of Agra; and as such they exist to this day. At the early period we have alluded to above, from the best authority to be obtained, the city of Cannouge was the capital of this vast empire: it is considered by some





Engraved by T. Sutherland.

MOUNTAINS of RAJEMAHAL  
WHERE THEY DESCEND TO THE GANGES.

London, Published by R. ACKERMANN, 101 Strand, Aug. 2. 1804.

writers as the same to which the ancients gave the name of Palibothra. Strabo describes it as situated at the confluence of another river with the Ganges, and its form as that of a vast quadrangle, in length eighty stadia, equal to about ten English miles, and in breadth fifteen stadia, or two miles, surrounded by a fortification constructed with wood, on which were built five hundred and seventy high towers. Its number of gateways amounted to sixty-five; and the whole circumference was protected by a vast fosse or ditch, exceeding 200 yards in breadth, and 45 feet deep. Pliny and Arrian both concur in this account.

The province of Bengal Proper is bounded on the south by the bay of that name, on the north by a range of mountains, on the east is Aracan and part of Assam, and Bahar borders it on the west.

The *Ayeen Acberi*, a book compiled by order of the great Acber, emperor of Hindoostan, at the close of the fifteenth century, when that country was at its highest pinnacle of glory, and which gives a very clear and detailed account of every province of the empire, their produce, population, and every thing connected with them, has estimated the extent of the soubahship of Bengal at four hundred koss in length, and two hundred in breadth, the koss being nearly two English miles.

There is not perhaps in any part of the world a tract of country which can compare with it in fertility, if we except Egypt, which in this respect it very nearly resembles. It is watered by the vast and majestic Ganges, which glides through its centre, and which, on the subsiding of the waters of its periodical floods, spreads a rich deposit to a considerable extent from its banks, and joined by several smaller streams running at right angles nearly with this their great channel, descends to the ocean. Numerous canals also, formed by the industry of man, intersecting in all directions the vast plain of its valley, diffuse a most luxuriant verdure and abundant harvests throughout its whole extent.

The climate of Bengal is comparatively temperate when contrasted with that of

the upper provinces: it is not subject to the hot and parching winds of the latter, which prevail for three months in the year, from March to June; and from its situation south of the tropical line, the sun twice passes it within a short space of time, producing a long rainy season, and consequently much cloudy weather. The rains on an average are computed to continue for nearly six months. The violent and frequent storms of thunder also tend, no doubt, to refresh the atmosphere and reduce its temperature. These rains sometimes commence so early as April, but more commonly in the beginning of June.

The Ganges itself has been held in such repute from the earliest times, that the Hindoos entertain a sacred and religious veneration for its waters. One of their most solemn oaths is on its holy stream; and the wealthy Hindoos, who reside many of them at the distance of several days' journey from its banks, have a daily supply of its waters for the purposes of religious ablution.

Some particular parts of this river are considered far more sacred than others; and here immense crowds of the Hindoos, at stated periods, or at their great festivals, are collected for the purposes of devotion, and pass hours and even whole days in its purifying waters.

Independent of these supernatural qualities, however, applied to the water of the Ganges, it has properties really valuable to mankind: it is sweet and wholesome, and may, it is said, be kept for years without being subject to putrefaction.

The rice is the species of grain most cultivated in Bengal, as it delights in a moist soil, and flourishes particularly within reach of the periodical floods. This plant is sometimes so luxuriant and prolific, that the produce of one single grain has been known to yield a measure equal to four pounds weight. The rice possesses another remarkable quality, which deserves notice in this place: in proportion as the inundations of the Ganges rise, the rice extends its stalk even to the length of fifteen or twenty feet, and never permits its head to be immersed in the water.



T. Sutherland sculp.

THE MOTEE GIRNA,  
OR FALL OF PEARLS IN THE RAJEMAHAL HILLS.

London, Published by R. ACKERMANN, 101. Strand, Aug. 2. 1814.

These periodical inundations of the Ganges are usually at their height in August and September; they sometimes continue until October, but this is unusual. I cannot precisely state their perpendicular rise, having had no opportunity of ascertaining it by actual experiment; but I am confident I am much within the mark when I place it at fifteen feet.

The road runs mostly by the right bank of the Ganges to the confines of the province of Bengal Proper, approaching which the country becomes less cultivated and more wooded. The Rajmahal hills shew themselves in the distance on the left of the road, and bending round towards the river, soon run down upon its very banks. Here is a pass, which, winding through a labyrinth of low and thickly wooded rocky hills, is called the Sicre-Gully Pass (represented in the *Vignette* at the end of the work); and beyond, at a little distance, is that of Terria-Gully. The road through both is stony, and bad for wheel-carriages. On passing this obstacle, the province of Bahar is entered, which was formerly of equal importance, and now even surpasses Bengal in fertility. There are commonly five distinct crops of grain in the year, and the wheat is of the purest and finest quality. I have seen near Patna sixteen quartern loaves sold for one rupee, 2s. 6d.

Proceeding on from the Terria-Gully Pass, we found the country more open as we entered the province of Bahar. We obtained two beautiful glimpses of the Rajmahal hills: the first soon after rounding the point of land where this ridge of mountain falls abruptly into the river; the other a few miles further on, where, in a profound ravine of the thickly wooded mountains, may be discerned, from near the river's brink, a beautiful cataract of water, which, apparently bursting from a deep chasm, descends in a sheet of silver for some distance, and then breaking into showers of sparkling spray, has received the appropriate and beautiful appellation of the *Mootee Girna*, or the Fall of Pearls. A view of it is given in *Plate VI*. We had passed in the course of this day's march a very fine *birkut*, or banian tree, which, stretching its

gigantic limbs across the road, supported on their slender and graceful living columns, and crowned by a thickly interwoven mass of the richest foliage, seemed, as we moved beneath its cool and refreshing porticoes, the temple of some sylvan deity. Seen at a distance, these singular trees have the appearance of a grove of several joined together. The Hindoos regard it with superstitious veneration. To the traveller it is ever a welcome sight, when, fatigued with the burning hours of a midday march, he seeks with eagerness its friendly shelter.

On the following morning we took the field on our elephants at an early hour, in hopes of some sport: we met with vast numbers of peacocks, but they were very wild, and we only brought home a few brace of the chuckore-partridge. We afterwards continued along through the jungle, and parallel with the road, getting an occasional shot, till we reached Colgong, about twelve miles from Pialapore, well situated on the main Ganges. This place is remarkable for three singular masses of rock, which stand in the body of the river, and about two hundred yards from the right bank. The principal of these has a perpendicular height of about eighty feet, and all are composed of irregular rolled masses, as far as I could judge, of different sorts of granite. Their summit is overspread with a luxuriant growth of trees and shrubs. Procuring a *dinghy*, the smallest kind of boat, I passed over to the largest rock, and with a little scrambling attained its summit. The Ganges is here a noble river, and has a breadth, when at the highest, of nearly two miles. But the most singular circumstance connected with these rocks is, the change which has occurred in their situation with respect to the Ganges. Some forty or fifty years ago they were not only on *terra firma*, but considerably inland and remote from the river.

The Ganges, having its sources in a very mountainous region, is subject to periodical, vernal, and autumnal floods, and its bed being a very rich alluvial soil, is constantly changing by the force and rapidity of the current. Some trifling accident generally commences this deviation, as the falling in of a portion of the lofty bank



G. Hunt sculp<sup>t</sup>

The ROCKS of COLGONG.

London, Published by R. ACKERMANN, 101 Strand, Aug. 5. 1824.

by the undermining of the river; this, forming an obstacle to its usual course, diverts the current, and perhaps directs it against a soft and yielding bank: the work of destruction then is most wonderfully rapid, and an entire village has, in the course of one night, totally disappeared. I have frequently seen this occur in my voyages in the upper provinces, where banks and cliffs of fifty or sixty feet perpendicular height are precipitated in masses of hundreds of tons at a time into the river below. The rocks of Colgong owe their present situation to a gradual change of this nature; formerly they were high inland, now they are in the bosom of the mighty Ganges, and the depth of water close to the largest exceeds sixty feet. A Fakeer, or wandering mendicant friar, occasionally takes up his abode on one of these rocks, for a view of which the reader is referred to *Plate VII*. Our direction from Moorshedabad to Sicre-Gully had been about north-west; but there the river takes a bend nearly due west, forming three large elbows to the northward between this and Surajgurh.

Two more stages brought us to Boglipore, a considerable town, and the residence of the civil servants of the Company, the magistrate, and collector of the district of Monghyr, which is in the province of Bahar.

Having now taken our leave of the province of Bengal Proper, and entered and arrived at the chief station of that of Bahar, we propose to give the same sketch of its general features, produce, and manufactures, as has been already given of the former. It has been long celebrated in India as the most fertile part of Hindoostan, and there is a greater diversity of surface comprised within its limits than in its sister province of Bengal, the western parts being much broken, and rising in some places to hills of a commanding height and form. These give birth to several rivers, which, descending into the plains, tend much to their fertility and verdure. Bahar, throughout the long and grievous disputes and dissensions which convulsed the greater part of the empire, removed to a distance from the focus of these evils, the proud but unfortunate Dehli, was seldom visited by the scourge of war; and it was only in the few



expeditions of the more enterprising Acber and ambitious Aurungzebe that it witnessed scenes but too familiar to its neighbouring provinces.

Bahar is stated, in the time of the emperor Acber Shah, to be bounded on the east by the province of Bengal, on the west by Allahabad and Oude, and on the north and south by mountains. Its length is given as one hundred and twenty, and its breadth from the mountains on the north to Tyroot at one hundred and ten koss.

The chief rivers of Bahar are the Ganges and the Soane. The Soane, the Nerbudda, and the Chelun, all take their rise near Kurrah. The first runs in a southern direction as far as Mouneah, where it joins the Ganges. The Gunduck river comes from the foot of the hills to the north, and falls into the Ganges near Hajipore. The summers are very hot, the winters temperate, and the rains continue nearly six months. The whole province is covered with the richest verdure, and the soil being hard and compact, little dust is raised by the storms of wind. Agriculture is in high perfection, and rice flourishes particularly in this province. Many houses throughout Bahar are roofed with tiles, and the inhabitants are famous for building boats and the manufacture of gilded glass. Horses and camels are not numerous, but the elephants are fine, and in great numbers. The hawk, parrot, and fighting-cocks celebrated for giving great sport, abound. The air, water, and climate of Tyroot are much spoken of: it has large and delightful groves of orange-trees extending for thirty koss. The fort of Rhotasgurrh is another singular feature of Bahar. It is situated on a lofty mountain, of difficult approach, and twenty-eight miles in circumference; the inclosed land is cultivated, and watered by a variety of springs. The only access to it is by a very narrow road up a steep ascent of two miles from the base of the hill to the gates, which are three in number, one above another, defended by guns and rolling stones. The square contents of the fortified table-land on the summit is ten miles: in this space are included towns and villages, corn-fields, &c.; and water is found a few feet from the surface. On one side, at the foot of a tremendous precipice, runs the



G. Hunt sculp.

ANCIENT TOMB  
AT THE CONFLUENCE OF THE BOGLIPORE NULLA AND THE GANGES.

London. Published by RACKERMANN 101 Strand Aug<sup>o</sup> 1824.

river Soane, and on the opposite another river; both meeting after passing the fort, form the hill into a triangular peninsula. A deep valley, full of impervious woods, closes the approach to the third side; and these spreading all over the mountains, render access in that direction next to impossible.

The Ganges at Boglipore forms a considerable elbow, not only by the tracing of its coast, but by shoals and banks of sand, which stretch out a considerable distance, and are constantly shifting at every rise or fall of the river. There is a small branch of the river, which, at some period, has been formed by nature, which cuts off this point, and being still water, offers a far easier and more certain passage in all states of the wind. This branch is called the Boglipore nullah, and admits boats and vessels of the ordinary size used in the transport of various articles of merchandise, grain, &c. This nullah has a course of from twelve to fifteen miles, from its entrance above the projecting point to its reunion with the Ganges. Near the latter spot are situated the remains of a large mausoleum, which, furnishing a specimen of this style of building, is given in the accompanying *Plate* (VIII.) The bank of the nullah winds in a serpentine course, and being in many parts thickly wooded, in others open and cultivated, with huts of the natives interspersed at intervals, forms a pleasing scene, which is constantly changing, and presenting new objects to the traveller's notice. Emerging from this, the tomb alluded to above is seen embosomed in foliage; and a distant peep is caught at the same time of the lowest part of the Monghyr hills, a stony ridge of considerable elevation in another part of the chain, and on the extremity of which, where it abruptly descends to the Ganges, the old native fort of Monghyr is built. From Boglipore, after a few days' halt to rest with the hospitable residents, civil and military, we turned off from the direct route to the upper provinces, to visit a district on the opposite bank of the Ganges, well worth the notice of the traveller who would view the freaks which Nature sometimes in her most capricious mood has here played. This district, named Tyroot, is situated between two clear and rapidly

flowing rivers, which descend from the mountainous country towards the north-west, and run in very winding but parallel channels into the Ganges.

This tract of country, for a very considerable extent towards the hills, enjoys an almost equal temperature of climate, which produces the following singular effects: a constant verdure in the hot season, when other parts are scorched and brown; a total absence of the oppressive hot winds; and a temperature of climate favourable to the production and culture of most of the British vegetables and smaller fruits; the currant, raspberry, and strawberry flourishing with very little care, when in most other parts of India they cannot be brought to perfection without great expense and trouble.

In this district of Tyroot, and in the most favourable situation, a stud for the breeding of horses, as remount to the native cavalry of Bengal, had been long established. There were near eight hundred mares and colts of different breeds; Arabs, Tazzies, Turkoman, English, and Persian, and the crosses of these. This establishment was, about a year after my visit to it, broken up, and a selection of the best horses was sent to the coast, to be incorporated with the Hon. Company's stud at that presidency.

We returned thence to the banks of the Ganges, and in our route stopped for the night at a small village called Mojumpore, where we encamped in a most extensive and beautiful *tope* of mango-trees. In the neighbourhood of this place we observed a number of those mounds of earth, daubed over with red paint, which designate the spots where women have sacrificed themselves, according to the barbarous law misconstrued, but not less rigorously enforced to the present day, by the ignorant and bigoted Brahmins, or priests of the Hindoos. This usage has, from the number of these monuments, been too prevalent in the vicinity of this place; for several of the outskirts of the neighbouring villages have their memorials of the same description and import. It is deeply to be lamented that a custom should be tolerated so contrary to



T. Sutherland sculp<sup>d</sup>

A VILLAGE on the GANGES above BOGLIPORE.

reason, so disgusting to humanity, and which no Brahminic law authorizes ; it being decidedly condemned by many of the better informed natives, who permit its use only in cases where the self-sacrifice on the part of the woman is perfectly voluntary. It is an omission on the part of the authorities who rule this country to permit its occurrence; the mass of the Hindoos must abhor and dread its enforcement: the Brahmins no doubt are eager for its continuance from motives entirely selfish and sordid, they inheriting the bulk of the property of the wretched family thus cut off. It is sincerely to be hoped that this disgraceful and cruel custom will be speedily and effectually put a stop to wherever the British power and controul extend through this vast empire.

We crossed to the Boglipore side of the Ganges once more, and landed from our ferry-boat near a small village, represented in *Plate IX*. It is very prettily situated in a creek, which runs inland from the river, and is some few miles above the station of Boglipore. We got some good peacock-shooting near this place, the country being for the most part wooded, and abounding with those birds. We experienced this evening one of those violent storms or hurricanes which not unfrequently occur after a hot and sultry day. The rapidity of its approach, the violent impetuosity of its blast, the heavy pour of rain, with the vivid lightning and awfully loud and crashing thunder, conspired to produce an effect sublimely terrific. The boats of different classes which were in the river were blown like straws irresistibly on shore, and two pinnaces fastened near the bank shared the same fate.

Moving on the following morning early, we soon obtained a distant view of the fortress of Monghyr, a place of great strength and importance in former times. It is of vast extent, being nearly two miles square: it was a considerable station, and occupied by a large British force in the earlier part of the progress of our arms up the country. It has a deep ditch quite surrounding it on the land side, while the river Ganges protects it on the north: this ditch is full fifty feet wide. This fortress

has of late years become an invalid-station: there is also within the fort an hospital, for the advantage of such men of the native troops as are afflicted with insanity.

Monghyr is also celebrated for a manufactory of wooden work of a variety of form and nature, tables, chairs, sofas, teapoys, and other articles of furniture, made of a wood called the *tchikrassee*, in some measure resembling mahogany in colour, but of a coarser grain and less durability. Toys of all sorts are also here manufactured; some very well executed, and all remarkably cheap. Guns, matchlocks, pistols, and articles of cutlery are also made here, of good form and appearance, but which cannot, in point of finish and durability, vie for a moment with those of England.

At some distance before reaching Monghyr, we saw in the river Ganges on our right a singular mass of rock standing in the water, and somewhat resembling those of Colgong. It is distant about two hundred yards from the right bank, immediately opposite to the village of Sultangunge, and forms the subject of the *Tenth Plate*. It rises about seventy feet above the level of the water, towering abruptly from its bosom: there is one place only at which a boat can be put in, and where there is a landing-place, and a very steep and winding path leading to its summit. Here is found a small building, a *madrussa*, or college of Fakeers, or wandering monks, who reside in it. This remarkable rock has doubtless been of more consequence at some remote period than it is at present; for on examining its abrupt and weather-worn sides by passing round it in a boat, a variety of sculpture, comprising the principal Hindoo deities, men, and animals, is seen covering nearly the whole face of the cliff. The same may be observed on the opposite shore of Sultangunge. Some of these figures are tolerably executed, but the greater part are rudely and grotesquely designed, and point out their origin to have been very remote. The whole forms a pretty object as you run past in a boat; and the thick and luxuriant foliage which crowns the summit, adds much to the effect of the picture.



T. Sutherland sculp.

The FAKEER'S ROCK at JANGUIRA,  
NEAR SULTANGUNJ.



Continuing our journey upwards, we soon left the Ganges, which, a little above Monghyr, makes a great bend to the southward; while the main road to Hajipore on the left, and Patna, Bankipore, and Dinapore on the right bank, takes a direction straight to those places. This is still Bahar, of which Bankipore is the chief civil, and Dinapore the principal military, station: these two and Patna, or Azimabad, are in one long line, and close upon the bank of the Ganges, extending full thirteen miles in length. Azimabad is the most ancient part, and was the capital of Bahar: it is surrounded by a wall and ditch, now quite out of repair; and contains a Roman Catholic chapel, a *madrussa* of Seikhs, and an English and Danish factory. There are also the ruins of a fort. In the churchyard there is a handsome monument, in the form of a pillar, erected to the memory of the English here inhumanly murdered by Meer Jaffier Khan in 1763. At Bankipore is a large building called the Golah; it is in the shape of a beehive, ninety-six feet high, and one hundred and twenty-six paces in circumference: it has two flights of stone steps to ascend to the summit; and here is a large opening, by which it was to have been filled with corn, to serve as a supply in the event of a famine, and which, when wanted, was to have been dug out from four doors at the bottom: it has, however, never yet been filled. The road from Bankipore to Dinapore, a distance of seven miles, is beautiful, the greater part being through a very richly wooded country. At the latter place a king's regiment of infantry is usually quartered.

Leaving Bankipore in the evening, we encamped that same night in a most extensive and beautiful *tope*, or grove. These *topes* are mostly of the mango-tree, and have a very beautiful appearance. They are all regularly planted, like our orchards. The mangoes rise to the height of between forty and fifty feet, and generally branch out into three or four stems. They resemble in some measure the mulberry-tree of England, but their leaves are smooth, and of a very dark green; their foliage is very rich and thick, and at about the age of twenty years, these trees form a very pictu-

resque group. In travelling through the country, more especially in the upper provinces of Bengal, these *topes*, some of them covering an extent of several acres, are met with every three or four miles on the principal routes. They are chiefly planted by men of rank and wealth among the Hindoos, who, at their death, usually bequeath a certain sum for the planting a *tope*, digging a well, or forming a tank or large reservoir of water; and these are mostly situated on the road-side, as a convenience for travellers, and a general benefit and advantage to mankind. These works perhaps have, in their foundation, a portion of self-pride, since they serve to commemorate and hand down to posterity the name and rank of their author: but whatever be the motive of their creation, they prove most welcome to the traveller, whether native or European, in the burning summer heats; affording to the former a cool and refreshing shade for his noontide nap, and to the latter a delightful spot in which to form his camp, as he travels either for duty or pleasure along the otherwise exposed and burning tracts of arid country, which the hot season here for three or four months invariably produces.

A few miles below Patna we passed a very prettily situated village, with its pagoda of a most picturesque form, its ghaut of the red stone, and its native Hindoos performing their ablutions in the sacred stream of the Ganges. The varied forms and tints of the foliage surrounding this romantic spot give a good relief and effect to the white buildings, as may be seen in the annexed view (*Plate XI.*)

We reached Mangee-Ghaut, a village situated very near the confluence of the two mighty streams of the Ganges and Gogra rivers, where we have an instance of the very wonderful change that has been wrought, by the united efforts of both, in the bed of the former, which, since the season of the rains last year, has been shifted near half a mile more to the eastward. The road continues from Mangee-Ghaut along the left bank of the Gogra river as far as Mindeegunj, about seven miles, where is a ferry and good establishment of boats for crossing it.



T. Sutherland sculp.

VILLAGE and PAGODA below PATNA AZIMABAD,  
ON THE GANGES.

Before we take leave of Mangee, however, it would be unpardonable to omit noticing the magnificent *birkut*, or banian-tree, for which this ghaut is so celebrated, and which, in point of extent, variety of form, and grand and highly picturesque groups of mighty stems and pendent rope-like columns, far exceeds any tree of the kind in this part of India. It is situated close upon the banks of the Gogra, and at a short distance from its point of junction with the Ganges, and viewed from a distance, has the appearance of a vast *tope*, or grove. It rises to a most gigantic height, and its large limbs stretch out to a great length in every direction, supported by their columnar shafts in graceful clusters, which they send downwards to the earth for this purpose.

At the time I visited and examined this wonderful production of nature, some natives, who had been cutting wood in the neighbourhood, happened to pass under it, and seeing me attentively examining its various parts, accosted me, and expressed some surprise at my admiration of its wonderful structure. We entered into conversation, and in the course of it I learned the history of this great natural wonder, which is religiously and implicitly credited by the inhabitants of the surrounding districts.

About one thousand years ago, they very gravely told me, there lived on this spot a very religious and holy Brahminee woman, famed for the austerity and sanctity of her life: her name was Gunga Purrain: she lived to a very great age, and did not die, but the earth opening swallowed her up, and on the spot where she disappeared this tree in one night sprang up. In the centre of this grove, formed of one tree, is now a large open space; and where the original trunk stood there is a small building, consisting of four low mud walls only, eight or ten feet square, without a roof; inclosed in which is a small rude kind of mound, or altar of earth, over which some flowers were strewed when I saw it. The original trunk has perished, no doubt by gradual decay; but its children, its descendants, encircle the spot on which their

parent stood, and clasped in each other's embraces, joined and united as one family, form a perfect circle, a magnificent screen, consisting of lofty white and shining columns, crowned with masses of the richest and most luxuriant foliage. Rich festoons of the same hang in every varied and graceful form, interspersed amidst these natural pillars; while beneath long galleries and noble arcades extend in all directions, and form deep and shady recesses, grand porticoes, and large and lofty halls, like the pictured palaces of Fairy-Land. The circumference of this mighty tree round the outer stems is four hundred yards, and it is calculated that ten thousand men can repose beneath its shelter.

There is another of these trees in the province of Sirhind, equal in bulk to the one above-mentioned; but it is less ancient, and being quite perfect, and without any decayed parts, does not produce by any means so grand and varied a picture as this at Mangee.

In five marches from this we reached Ghazipore, on the left bank of the Ganges, here about four hundred yards wide. This place is celebrated for its excellent and high-flavoured rose-water. All the neighbouring fields are planted with this lovely shrub; and it may be conceived how fragrant to the sense, how delightful to the eye, must be these extensive plains of many thousand acres when the rose is in full blossom. There are here cantonments for a regiment of native cavalry; and at no great distance the remains of a very beautiful palace, built by the emperor Aurungzebe. The only part at all perfect is the *chalees setoon*, or hall of forty pillars, an edifice of much elegance, and which, placed on the edge of the Ganges, on a bank rising fifty or sixty feet perpendicular, and backed by some fine large trees, has a very grand and imposing effect.

We rapidly approached Benares, and before we got sight of its venerable pile, we came unexpectedly, on a sudden turn of the road, in view of one of the ghauts so often met with on the Ganges, and the small pagoda of the village, which latter was



HINDOO GHAT on the GANGES,  
BELOW BENARES.

*J. Sutherland sculp.*

concealed from our sight by the thick and luxuriant foliage. This sweet and quiet scene forms the subject of the view, *Plate XII*. The large tree is a *peepul*, of the birkut or banian tribe, but which does not throw out those pendent shoots on which the other supports the weight of its overgrown branches.

At length a turn in the river and the road we were travelling, which followed the windings of the former, shewed us Benares. Of all the cities of Hindoostan Benares is held the most sacred by the Hindoos: here their principal pagodas or temples are situated, their most revered and celebrated Brahmins reside; here is the centre and seat of Hindoo learning; and here is the celebrated observatory, which is said to have been erected by command of the emperor Acber, and is well known from the description of Sir Robert Barker in the *Philosophical Transactions*.

Benares is likewise one of the most ancient cities of India. It is there that Brahminic influence exerts unbounded sway; while its opulence and trade entitle it to rank among the principal cities of the world. It is situated on the left bank of the Ganges, here a noble stream, and its extent along the bank of that river is full five miles; its breadth inland being in proportion. Built upon a rising ground, sloping gradually upwards from the water's brink, its buildings appear very lofty when seen from the boats in passing it. Some of the ghauts are very fine edifices; one especially has six stories. Indeed the whole face of the city towards the river is one continued line of these ghauts, which, exclusive of the ornament they are to Benares, are highly commodious and useful in the facility for bathing which they present to its vast population; and the immense crowds of all sexes, in their varied and graceful costumes, who constantly frequent these public resorts, is truly wonderful.

Towards the east end of this, and near to the Ganges, the Jumeh Musjid, or chief Mahomedan temple, rises in great grandeur. It was built by the emperor Aurungzebe on the ruins of an ancient and highly venerated Hindoo pagoda, which the fanaticism of this bigoted Mussulman destroyed. This building is seen on the

right of the view here given (*Plate XIV.*), with its two lofty minarets and three noble domes of pure white marble. One of the smaller Hindoo pagodas may be observed very much out of perpendicular: this is occasioned by the foundation being undermined by the river, whose freaks and depredations have been before described.

As we are now in the city of Hindoostan which is considered by every sect of Hindoos their most holy station, some of the peculiarities of character of that very ancient and singular race of people will not be inappropriately noticed in this place.

There are four principal casts or sects of the Hindoos, which are commonly denominated the *Brahmin*, the *Chehteree*, the *Bice*, and the *Soodra*. These great casts are divided into many others by the intermixture of one with the other; and these are so numerous and complicated, that it would be as troublesome as needless here to notice them. Suffice it to say, that thirty-six is considered about the number. These four principal casts are in a great measure restricted to certain occupations and modes of living. The *Brahmins* are confined to the teaching of the *Vedas*, or religious and moral tracts of very ancient standing. The *Cshatriga* (vulgarly *Chehteree*) are the military cast; their profession is arms. The *Vaisya*, or *Bice*, attend to commerce, agriculture, and the care of cattle. The *Soodra* is the lowest, and the duty attached to it is servile attendance on the higher casts.

A Brahmin unable to subsist by his duties may become a soldier: if he cannot find employment in either of these, he may apply to tillage, the care of cattle, or traffic; but in the latter certain commodities are to be avoided. A Chehteree in distress may resort to all these means; but he must not aspire to the higher functions. Medicine and other learned professions are allowed to be practised by the two superior casts, as are likewise painting and other arts, work for wages, menial service, alms, and usury. A Bice may descend to the servile acts of a Sooder; and a Sooder may gain a subsistence by handicraft, as joinery and masonry, or by the arts of painting or writing. He is also expressly permitted to become a trader or a husbandman.





*J. Sutherland sculp.*

SACRED TANK and PAGODAS near BENARES.



Engraved by J. Sutherland.

CITY OF BENARES,  
FROM THE GANGES.

The distinctions of families are important in regulating their intermarriages. Genealogy is made a particular study; and great attention is given to regulate this ceremony according to the established rules, particularly in the first marriage of the eldest son. The chief points to be observed are, not to marry within the prohibited degrees; nor in a family known by its name to be of the same primitive stock; nor in a family of inferior rank.

Exclusively of the grandeur of the appearance which the city of Benares exhibits as seen from the river, by walking round its environs a number of other objects, of great architectural beauty, are scattered in the path of the stranger: tanks on a noble scale; *topes* of the sacred *birkut*, or banian-tree; pagodas of all sizes and descriptions, interspersed with a variety of the richest foliage, offer views highly interesting and beautifully picturesque. There is one in particular which is highly valuable as a perfect specimen of the pure Hindoo style of temple; and we here see grouped together the main edifice of a very rich style of sculpture, the inferior and detached pagodas or chapels, the sacred *tope*, and the extensive and noble tank, with its expansive sheet of water and its grand flight of steps, which, for the purpose of ablution, lead down from the four sides into the water. The accompanying *Plate* (XIII.) will give a better idea of the grandeur and solemn beauty of this scene than any further description can do: to it therefore we refer the reader.

Returning one forenoon from a tour round a considerable part of the environs towards the north of the city of Benares, I turned down to the river's side, to examine some ghauts and pagodas which I had not yet seen. I here perceived, that not only has the Ganges undermined and thrown out of perpendicular the pagoda so singularly removed from its base in the view already given of Benares from the water, but a very considerable part of these ghauts are also fast following the same course; and many appear as if blown up, their masses in huge fragments lying

scattered about by the violence of the currents during the season the Ganges is at its height. The general quality of the soil throughout the whole course of this mighty river, a rich loam, renders it extremely liable to injury from a body of water to which it is always exposed: at times the river is full sixteen feet higher than at others; and at that period it is most rapid. While contemplating this scene, I was much amused by a mode of travelling quite novel to me; though it is, as I afterwards found, an every-day occurrence. I heard, although I could see nothing, the voices of several persons apparently near us; and as no canoe or vessel of any kind was in sight, I was at a loss to divine whence they proceeded. I was soon, however, made acquainted with the apparent mystery, and speedily perceived half a dozen natives floating in the water about breast-high, each having a long bamboo, with something attached to its upper extremity. I found on inquiry that their contrivance was an ingenious one, being as follows:

An earthen pot, called a *kedgeree* pot, commonly used for their cooking, is inverted in the water, its mouth downwards; to this is firmly tied a stout bamboo of five or six feet long, so that the thicker end of the pole shall be even with the mouth of the vessel. On the latter the man mounts, and it buoys him up considerably: he has little clothes of course on him; but to the upper end of his pole is attached his *lootee*, or brass vessel, and a change of dress to put on when he goes ashore, and which is kept perfectly dry. The party on the present occasion evinced great good-humour, and chatted and laughed right merrily, seeming to trust their course entirely to the river's current.

After a stay of five days at Benares, where we were kindly received and hospitably entertained, which is ever the traveller's reception through Bengal, be he friend or stranger, our party left this celebrated and interesting city, and resumed the route towards the upper provinces, proposing to visit in our way the fortress of Allahabad,



T. Sutherland sculp.

MAHOMEDAN MOSQUE AND TOMB,  
NEAR BENARES

celebrated both in ancient and modern times as a city of the first rank and consequence in Hindoostan. Our route for the first day was through the outskirts of Benares chiefly: still in many places we paused, either to admire some group of pagodas, tank, or fine grove of trees; now a distant peep at the city we had left arrested us for a moment; while the face of the country gradually became more rural, now diversified with village, farm, and *topes* of great extent and beauty.

We had also many grand and widely extensive views of the Ganges, that noble stream, never to be seen without interest, as it rolls in solemn grandeur its deep and golden volume towards the ocean through one of the richest valleys of the globe, and during a course navigable for an extent of nearly two thousand miles, without one single obstacle or impediment, enriches and fertilizes the vast provinces of the Bengal presidency through which it takes its way.

After proceeding about four miles, at a gentle rise in the road, looking round towards Benares, we caught a most beautiful distant view of its principal ghauts, the larger pagodas, and, beyond all, the Jumah Musjid, towering over all in proud superiority. The fine sweep of the Ganges on which the city stands was also visible to the extreme wooded point some distance below. Our fore-ground was at the same moment singularly magnificent: it consisted of a fine group of tombs of Mahomedans, of an elegance and lightness I have not seen equalled in this country, and which can scarcely be surpassed in any other for their form and style of building. The figure represented in the accompanying *Plate* (XV.), which gives a correct view of the scene I have above described, is a *shutur sewar*, or person appointed to carry dispatches, &c.: the camel on which he is mounted will go at the rate of six or seven miles an hour. His action is at the same time very violent, and it has been said, that those who ride these extremely rough-going animals are seldom long-lived. They are trained expressly for this purpose; for the baggage-camel, if loaded, moves at the rate of not more than three miles an hour. He is an animal, however, most

peculiarly adapted for burthens in a hot and parched-up climate, as he can undergo great fatigue, and carries about seven hundred weight. This quantity, if a camel is lamed or otherwise injured, can be easily divided amongst the others; but a baggage-elephant failing, and they often bruise their feet if the country is stony and rough, throws a weight of incumbrance on the ground, which cannot readily be otherwise disposed of. On this account chiefly I would always prefer the camel, which is, besides, more easily fed and supported, and can go a long period without water.

As we continued our route upwards by the main road on the left bank, we passed the fortress of Chunar Gurh on the opposite side of the river, which is not here very wide. It is situated on the extremity of a long range of hills, of moderate elevation, composed throughout of a stone of a red colour, and called Chunar stone, which is hard and very durable, and is much employed in building. Their summits are bare, but there is some wood about their base, which creeps in parts up their rugged sides. The fort of Chunar has a very singular appearance when viewed from a boat immediately opposite; for you can see into the whole interior of the works, although they are elevated full one hundred and twenty feet above the level of the Ganges. The fact is, the fort occupies the slope of a hill, which rises with a regular ascent from the river. The appearance both above and below, however, is far more respectable, and especially from the latter point, whence the view given in the accompanying *Plate* (XVI.) is taken.

This fortress is wholly of native construction; it is a place often named in the military history of the country in ancient and modern times. It had dwindled at the period when I saw it to an invalid-station. The view here given will convey an idea of its position on a projecting mass of rocky hill. The vessels seen nearer to the eye are a small fleet, which would accompany a civilian or military officer of rank on an excursion of business or pleasure.

We arrived at length at Allahabad, a celebrated city of very ancient date, and



Engraved by T. Sutherland.

THE INDIAN FORT OF CHUNARGURH,  
ON THE GANGES.





T. Sutherland sculp.

RAJ GHAT and FORT of ALLAHABAD,  
AT THE CONFLUENCE OF THE GANGES AND JUMNA RIVERS.

renowned in history. It forms one of the soubahships, or provinces of the empire of Hindoostan, and, according to the *Ayeen Acberi*, is one hundred and sixty koss in length, and one hundred and twenty-two in breadth. It is bounded by Bahar on the east, Bundhoo on the south, and Agra on the west. This province is very productive in fruits, flowers, and rare plants. The vine flourishes, and its grapes are delicious. Melons also come to great perfection. Various and beautiful cloths are made in this province, and also woollen carpets.

Allahabad ranks almost equally high with Benares in the estimation and religious prejudices of the Hindoos; for, according to their belief, it is the spot where Vishnu, the adored and darling deity of the Indian women, first descended from heaven, and took upon him the mortal form. This fortress and city is situated at the immediate confluence of the two great rivers, Ganges and Jumna, which here mingle their mighty bulk of waters. The fortress is nearly triangular in shape: each of the two lower faces is covered and washed by a river; and the walls of both are of native work, of great solidity and strength, and further fortified by round towers from distance to distance. It was built by the great Acber, and was long the residence of that renowned warrior and statesman. On the land side, the fortifications have been altogether new-modelled on the improved modern system, and it may now be considered as entitled to a high rank in the scale of fortified places. A view of it is given in *Plate XVII*.

The point of junction of the two rivers, Ganges and Jumna, also shewn in the view, is a great resort of pilgrims, who come in vast crowds from the most remote parts of India to bathe in the sacred waters, and purify themselves from worldly sins. Many of these weak and superstitious wretches, urged on by their Brahmins, and deluded by the hope of eternal happiness, plunge into the holy stream, and sink never to rise again, with the firm conviction on their minds that they will go immediately to heaven.

Within the fort is the Peetulpooree, a very sacred and highly revered subterraneous temple of the Hindoos. It is approached by a descent of eight or ten stone steps; and turning to the left along a vaulted passage, five feet wide and seven feet high, for about forty-five paces, the temple is entered, in whose centre stands the Lingham of Mahadeo on an altar of stone. This apartment is about twenty feet square, and is supported by numerous pillars, its walls being covered with roughly executed half-finished images of Vishnu, Ganesa, and other Hindoo deities. From this temple is a passage, which the Brahmins pretend leads to Dehli: it seems, however, rather to have been designed for a drain to carry off the surplus water in the rainy season, which would otherwise lodge in the temple.

There is in front of this an edifice constructed of the *sungh soorkh*, a red stone resembling jasper, which is inhabited by a society of Fakeers, who subsist on the credulity of the people in perfect idleness.

This city was anciently called Piyaug. In the view of Allahabad from Raj-Ghaut on the Ganges, given in the last *Plate*, beyond the fort may be perceived the Jumna river, where a small vessel is at anchor. The part of the fort here seen is Indian.

From Allahabad we proceeded up through the Doo-ab, or country of the two rivers, it being situated between the Ganges and Jumna. I here left my party, who proceeded direct onwards for Khanpore, while I followed the course of the Jumna upwards, anxious to see its character and scenery, and in what respect it differed from the Ganges. I passed through the provinces of Allahabad, Currah, and Manickpore, a line of country beautifully diversified in surface, and interspersed with woody tracts and rich patches of cultivation. The Jumna pursues a much more devious and winding course than the Ganges; but its waters are not so turbid, its bed being for a great length through a sandy soil, bordering the desert. The Cane, the Betwah, and the Sinde rivers join their tributary streams from Bundelcund on the south-west and



T. Sutherland sculp.

SURSEYA GHAUT, KHANPORE.

opposite bank of the Jumna, during its course past the province of Korah; while the Rinde river, which has run a nearly central course through the Doo-ab, pours its waters from the north into it near the village of Abidpore. Proceeding on thence as far as Etawah, passing on the left Kalpee, which is the main road and principal military communication with Bundelcund, and taking a new direction by the village of Jeswuntnagurh, where are some very beautiful Mahommedan tombs in a thick *tope* or grove, views of which are given in *Plate XIX.* and in the *Vignette* in the *Frontispiece*; and crossing the Doo-ab, I reached Cannouge on the Ganges, situated on the great road to the provinces of Agra and Dehli, as also on that into Rohilcund and Oude. The passage of the river to the latter is from Mendy Ghaut, where a regular ferry is established.

The city of Cannouge was once (in those remote ages of the Indian history handed down by tradition alone, and involved in the gloomy mists of superstition,) the capital of this vast empire, having a circumference of upwards of one hundred miles, and celebrated for its opulence and splendour. All has passed away like the faint traces of a dream: a few miserable huts huddled into a kind of village are now all that exists. But its ruins, its remains of magnificent mausoleums and tombs, the fragments of grandeur, and traces of foundations of buildings of vast size, powerfully corroborate the traditionary belief, and make it a spot for the traveller to pause upon, and give, as he pursues his way, the parting tribute of a sigh.

From Cannouge I proceeded direct to Khanpore, where I found my party, who had arrived two days previous. Khanpore was at that period the head-quarters of the field-command in Bengal; a command very extensive in its nature, reaching from Allahabad to the north-west frontier, and bounded on the east by the Ganges, and on the south-west by the Jumna, which, however, it oversteps in many parts. The total force in this command, including the King's and Company's troops, artillery, cavalry, and infantry, amounted at this period to 40,000 effective. Considerable

changes have occurred since my residence there; and since the late acquisition of the countries of Scindia and the Mahrattas, Agimere has succeeded to the honours formerly possessed by Khanpore. The cantonments at Khanpore are of great extent, being nearly seven miles in length, mostly along the bank of the Ganges; there are barracks for two cavalry and three infantry regiments, besides artillery. The situation is high, airy, and at this time was considered remarkably healthy. The Ganges is here a fine expanse of water, and glides majestically along with a current of about four miles per hour, when the river is not swollen by the rains; but in the months of September and October, which immediately follow the rainy season, its rapidity, breadth, and volume are all proportionably augmented: it then runs five, and in some parts six, miles per hour; and its width at Khanpore, upwards of seven hundred and fifty miles from its mouth, is nearly two English miles.

The style of house generally adopted here is that termed the *bungalow*, one now too well known in England to need a description. The heat soon after our arrival at Khanpore increased rapidly; early in March the wind, termed the hot wind, sets in, and blows steadily and unremittingly for near three months: this wind bears a pretty equal temperature of 106° of Fahrenheit's thermometer; it is always accompanied by a thickness like a mist, of a deep brown hue, caused by the infinitely fine particles of sand which, raised by its impetuosity, are borne along with it. This obscures or dims the sun's light, and divests his rays of much of their direct influence. It rises to a hard gale at noon, and then gradually declines with the sun: still the temperature changes very little at night, being frequently 100°; the heat continues intense and parching, every thing retaining a portion of that which it has imbibed during the day, until the rising sun again ushers in the burning blast.

Still this season is considered the most healthy, since there is no possibility of experiencing any check of perspiration. Within the houses are cool, being rendered so by a very simple contrivance of a frame of bamboo, interwoven with a species of



T. Sutherland sculp.

TOMBS near ETAYA,  
IN THE DOOAR, ON THE JUMNA RIVER.

grass, called *kuss kuss*, having a very sweet scent, and affixed to all the windows to the north-west, the point from whence the hot winds usually blow. One or two men are employed to throw water on these frames (*tatties* is their name), the hot wind passing through, which is rendered so cool as to lower the thermometer in the interior to 70°. The houses are at the same time kept dark, and one door opened to leeward, to cause a regular and gentle draught; so that one really enjoys, amid this burning atmosphere, an English summer's climate.

The annexed view (*Plate XVIII.*) of Surseya-Ghaut, at Khanpore, is taken from a small sandy island in the Ganges, a short distance from the shore, and which exists only in the dry season when the river is at its lowest. The several ranges of stone steps, or stairs, are for the purpose of bathing; a religious ceremony indispensable with some casts of the Hindoos, and a custom highly conducive to health. The natives of both sexes enter the water in their clothes, and after performing their ablutions and prayers, reascend to the shore, trusting to the warm beams of an ever brilliant and glowing sun to dry their dripping garments. India's daughters, rising thus like Naiads of the flood from the bosom of their adored river, their finely wove simple garb, consisting of one long piece only, and of every varied hue, clinging closely to their figure, exhibit a symmetry of form which might fairly vie with the Medicean. Indeed the mass of the Hindoos of both sexes of the upper provinces of Bengal are perfect models for the sculptor.

Throughout the British possessions in India the customs, manners, society, mode of living, &c. are quite English, although transplanted into so different a soil and to so (in many parts) intensely hot a climate. Though the natives of the country differ essentially, nay, I may say totally, from us in all these points, still there is, as there ought assuredly to be, a friendly intercourse between us and men of rank, education, and learning, who are still found among the natives, more especially the Mahomedans, that is highly gratifying.



There are still remaining, though few in number, some descendants of the great Omrahs and nobles of the court of the emperors of Hindoostan; and these, many of whom sided with the English, retained of course their property and *jaghires*, swearing fealty to the British government in India. There are also some who, independent in a great measure, collect their own revenue, and govern their people with an arbitrary and despotic sway; but instead of being subject to the British empire, are counted its true and faithful allies. Of these, the principal under the presidency of Bengal is the Nuwab of Oude, a man placed on the musnud by the English in opposition to his brother, a turbulent and unprincipled character. At the period I was in India, Saidat Ali was Nuwab of Lucnow and prime vizir of the empire, which, as we have seen, was conferred in perpetuity on his ancestor, Sujah ul Dowlah, and his descendants, for the great services he had rendered, and the shelter and assistance he had afforded to Shah Alum, which was a very principal cause of that prince's accession to the throne of Hindoostan. Stationed almost constantly at Khanpore, the Ganges alone separated me from Oude: I therefore had several opportunities of visiting Lucnow, its capital, and seeing, on a small scale indeed, the usages, customs, and ceremonies of the empire of India in the days of its splendour.

To avoid repetition and prolixity, I shall give the substance of what I saw in these different visits in one narrative.

My first was to accompany a British officer of rank, who had recently arrived in that part of India, and who, as is customary, paid an early visit of ceremony to his highness. Leaving Khanpore, and crossing the river at sunrise, having sent our camp-equipage across the night before, with orders to have the tents pitched and breakfast ready at the proper hour, we got into our palanquins, and after a pleasant run of about nine miles, we reached our encampment at the village of Onow. We remained quiet during the heat of the day, when the thermometer stood at 90° of Fah-

renheit; but towards evening we mounted our elephants, and made the tour of the town, which we found larger than its first appearance indicated. There are some mausoleums of Mahommedans to the westward; there are also the remains of a brick fort in the centre of the place, and the ruins of a large *serai* near it. A temple dedicated to Siva was just finished.

Our second day's march was fourteen miles, to Jellootra; and the third to Futteh-gunj. This morning, after having proceeded about half way, near the village of Vizir-gunj, we received notice that two of the Nuwab's sons were approaching to receive us, and conduct us to their father's presence. Soon after, we perceived their tents under some trees, and themselves coming towards us on their elephants. On meeting, the elephants of both parties fell prostrate, and we descended, and were severally introduced to the two Sahebzadehs, who were the younger sons, and were accompanied by a brother-in-law of the Nuwab, named Ramjan Khan. The ceremony of embracing took place; we were then conducted to a complete set of very elegant tents erected for our accommodation, where we found a handsome English breakfast laid out ready on the table; after which we were summoned to the tent of the princes, who made a present, as is usual on these occasions, of some shawls. We then retired, embracing as before, and, resuming our journey, reached our own tents at Futteh-gunj.

Mirza Hosain Ali Khan and Mirza Meendeh Khan, the fifth and youngest sons of the Nuwab who appear in public, have much of the gentleman in their manner, especially the youngest, who conducted himself with that ease and dignity so eminently possessed by his father. We saw the lofty minarets of Lucnow this evening. The Sahebzadehs dined with us, and confirmed the good opinion with which their first appearance had impressed us. Indeed, no European gentleman could conduct himself with greater propriety and good-breeding. Ramjan Ali Khan also proved a most

pleasant companion, a complete man of the world, possessing great urbanity and politeness.

On the following morning, we all mounted our howdahs at five a. m.; the Nuwab having intimated his intention of meeting our party at the Chahar Baug, one of his highness's gardens. We now made a very respectable appearance, having twenty elephants gaily caparisoned in our train, the greater part of which had been sent for our accommodation by the Nuwab.

As we approached the grand gateway of the Chahar Baug, the massive folding doors flew open, and the Nuwab advanced, surrounded and followed by his principal courtiers, all on elephants richly caparisoned, and they in their most splendid and costly costume. This spectacle was uncommonly grand and impressive; the richness of the housings of the elephants, fifty in number, the immense and gaudy banners, the spirited and beautiful Arab horses; all this splendid pageant, bursting at once from a noble gateway embosomed in a wood, had an effect at once magnificent and highly picturesque.

On a signal from his highness, every elephant knelt down, and he, dismounting from his splendid howdah of solid silver richly embossed, advanced towards us. All present dropped like lightning from their elephants and horses, the greater part falling prostrate on their faces, those higher in rank bowing the head, while our chief and his highness embraced. At a second signal all rose and mounted, and we set off in a confused crowd, which, by the awkward motion of the elephants, so many in number, raised a dust that was almost suffocating. We soon, however, reached the palace on the Goomty river, where we sat down to an elegant breakfast, at which seven of the Nuwab's sons, and most of his principal *ameers* or nobles, were present. Breakfast over, we were conducted to a separate room, where we were severally introduced to the Nuwab, and had the honour of embracing him. The usual present of shawls for a dress, and an ornament called *goshwara* for the turban, was presented to each

of us. His highness's reception was most handsome, and marked by every kind attention.

On the following day we were left to ourselves, and this I passed in visiting the public edifices and various parts of this fine city. In making use of this epithet, I apply it only to the palaces, mosques, gateways, &c.; for the town itself is as filthy a hole as I ever put foot in: the streets narrow, the huts miserable; while a nauseous odour, arising from the piles of dirt and rubbish which frequently obstructed the passage, was in the extreme disgusting: add to this, the frequent meetings with elephants in these narrow roads, a *rencontre* which more alarms a horse than any thing else could do. The elephant, however, has on his part as great apparent dread of a horse, especially if the latter comes up quick behind him.

The next day we went with a large party to visit two large pleasure-gardens belonging to the Nuwab, one of which is called the *Hazar i Baug*, or the Thousand Gardens; the other, the *Nashar Baug*, or Garden of Delight. These are both very considerable, running round a great part of the suburbs of the city. They are planted with orange and rose-trees, marigolds, and other common flowers. There are two very fine Pucka tanks, one of which is said to contain alligators.

We also saw this day the Imaum Baureh, the mausoleum where the late Nuwab was buried. We entered it by a lofty gateway, highly ornamented with sculpture, and passing into a sort of garden, very much neglected, ascended a long flight of steps to the main body of the building. On entering, in lieu of a place costly and splendid, as might have been expected in the tomb of the late prince of this country, we found a large room, filled completely with rubbish, which appears not to have been cleaned out since it was built; and it is besides crowded with pigeons, who build their nests all round the cornice, and cover the floor with their dirt.

In the centre of this room is the grave of the late Nuwab, Azof ul Dowlah: it is a small bed of mould, in which grass has been sown, and was springing, surrounded

by four slabs of white marble at right angles, forming a long parallelogram. The direction of the grave does not correspond with that of the building, varying nearly twenty degrees. At the head of the grave are placed the *Koran* open, and the state turban of the deceased; his sword and shield are on his left side, and several vessels of rose-water on his right. *Chowries*, or fans of peacocks' feathers, are strewed about the grave, and over the whole is a canopy of scarlet cloth, supported at the four corners by poles.

The mosque attached to this tomb is a pretty building of pure white, with its three domes and its minarets all of the same material, which I believe to be marble. We were not allowed to ascend these minarets, no person being permitted to do so without public notice being given. The cause is, that, from their great height, these minarets overlook the whole city, and among other parts, the *balakhanehs*, or apartments of the women, which are on the flat tops of most of the native houses, and which have four low walls only, and no roofs.

We passed from the Imaum Baureh to the gate called the *Room i Durwazeh*, or Gate of Rome, built after the model of one at Constantinople, which city is denominated Rome by the natives. It is a showy and splendid ornament to this approach to the city, a view of which is given in *Plate XX.*; but its style does not display any architectural chasteness. The old Dowlut Khaneh, or palace, now no longer inhabited, next drew our attention: it contains one kitchen, however, of a circular form, having a balcony round its interior circumference, and is fitted up much in the English style: it is said the Nuwab sometimes dines here.

In the evening the Nuwab dined with the British resident: he came in state, and the procession on this occasion was one of the most striking and magnificent I had yet seen in India. Notice being given of his highness's approach, the resident, with a large suite, placed himself at the top of the steps to receive him. About one hundred *hircarrahs*, armed with spears with silver handles and silver maces, preceded,



CITY OF LUCKNOW,  
CAPITAL OF PROVINCE OF OUDE, ON THE GOOLLY RIVER.  
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G. Hunt sculp.

crying aloud his titles: these were followed by several attendants on horseback, and others on foot carrying flambeaux; then came the body-guard, armed with spears and swords. His highness followed these on a superbly caparisoned elephant, and in a splendid *howdah* or seat. He was accompanied by five of his sons, each on his own elephant, with their respective attendants, and about ten of his principal nobles; the lights placing themselves on each side the steps leading up to the door, where he was received by the resident, and conducted to the drawing-room. During dinner his highness did not appear to have lost his appetite, though he was far outdone by one of his nobles, named Cossim Ali Khan, who sat opposite to me at table, and ate as much certainly as would have satisfied any five English farmers. He was a good-looking man, of about five feet ten inches in height, but immensely large, so as to weigh upwards of twenty stone. His own servants brought his dinner, which consisted of a large dish of boiled rice, with butter, spices, and a variety of vegetables, which being all placed in a semicircle around him, he took of the several ingredients, and mixing up a portion of them with his hand, he began to chuck this into his mouth; part he swallowed, but a large portion was denied entrance by his mustachios, and descended on his plate. What amused me most was, this *bon-vivant* in the midst of his repast threw handfuls of this mess on the plates of his fellow-nobles, who seemed to receive this substantial mark of his favour with profound respect. He described a favourite dish which he often indulged in, enumerating the several items like a professed epicure. He gave also the exact measure of the different ingredients, which amounted in all to seven pounds weight. After stuffing himself thoroughly, his servant brought a ponderous ewer and bason, when his lordship washed his beard and hands, and rising with a *salaam* to his master, retired to take his nap. The Nuwab retired about nine o'clock: the procession was the same as on his arrival, except that there was a much greater display of flambeaux, almost every attendant, servants, guards, &c. bearing one. The night being very dark added to

this scene, and produced a brilliant effect, which time never can efface from my memory.

The following day was the Mahomedan festival of the *Ede*, corresponding with our Easter, as it is celebrated on the appearance of the new moon after the month *Ramazan*, which resembles the Lent of the Christians. During its continuance the Mussulmans eat nothing from sunrise to sunset; and some are said to be so punctilious, as not even to swallow their saliva during that period. The festivities at the conclusion of this fast are sumptuous; some very curious in their nature: but in consequence of the death of the Nuwab's mother, his highness did not attend, and much of the splendour of the festival was lost in consequence.

Another day was dedicated to a new species of amusement, quite novel to Europeans, and well worthy of notice—an elephant fight. We mounted our horses at an early hour, and proceeded to the palace to meet the Nuwab, who was on horseback also; and followed by a large retinue, we set off for a palace of his highness's, called the Barouoon Baug, where there is an area appropriated for the combats of elephants and other wild beasts. This palace is delightfully situated on a gently rising eminence, commanding a most extensive view over the surrounding country; and, in point of splendour combined with elegance, far surpasses any thing of the sort in this part of India. There was a well-judged union of the comfort of the English with the splendour and magnificence of the Asiatic style, throughout its numerous and extensive apartments.

An elegant breakfast awaited our arrival; after which we passed to a spacious verandah on the east side of the palace, which looked down into the area prepared for the combat: the latter was nearly surrounded by a paling of bamboo, eighteen or twenty feet high. Soon after we were all seated the crowd were admitted, and presently filled the circumference of the theatre below us. Two very large war-elephants were now brought forward from opposite sides, each preceded by its



favourite female, whose presence it appears is necessary to arouse the anger of these noble animals. The conflict of this pair, however, gave little sport, one of them appearing very shy, and inferior to his opponent in strength; they were therefore withdrawn. Another pair now advanced, led as the first. These approached with a slow and majestic step, until they caught a glimpse of each other; both then raising their trunks, and uttering a shrill and angry cry, rushed with the most tremendous impetuosity together, presenting their heads to receive the first shock. It was awfully grand. The animals, thus stopped in their first career, still continued to strive by every possible exertion of strength and art to force their adversary back, or to attack him in flank. Their heads, however, still were firmly pressed together, and they alternately receded and rallied. One was of rather a smaller size than his antagonist, but he appeared to make up for this deficiency by his greater spirit. He retreated a little for a moment, but it was only to renew the charge with increased rage: again they met; the same tremendous concussion took place, and these attacks were several times repeated, until in a last and most desperate one a tooth of the smaller elephant was broken in two with a loud crash. Still he was not dispirited, and would have persevered longer in the contest; but being now so decidedly inferior to his adversary, the fire-works were cast between them, which ended the combat.

The noble animals kept for this sport are unfit of course for any other purpose, and are almost ungovernable by their *mahauts*. They are fed, to bring them to this furious state, on high-seasoned food and spices, which in a manner intoxicate them, and render them furious beyond description.

The *mahauts*, or conductors, sit upon the elephant's back during the contest, and too often fall victims to the mad rage of their own animal or the opposing foe. There is a large pad like a mattress strongly fixed on the animal's back, and covered over with a coarse netting of thick white cotton rope; to this the *mahaut* clings, and as the elephants approach to the attack, the rider gradually recedes towards the tail,

where he usually is at the moment of the shock, stimulating the already furious animal with his voice and the sharp goad with which the elephant is always driven and guided.

We had one more entertainment from the Nuwab previous to our departure from his capital: it consisted of a late dinner, which was as splendid and well conducted as any thing of the kind I had yet witnessed in the country. Six sons of his highness, and several nobles of the highest rank at his court, with some British officers, swelled the company to about forty persons. After dinner, the health of our party and that of the resident was given by the Nuwab; but although the bottle circulated pretty freely, neither himself nor any of his courtiers tasted a drop, it being contrary to their religion to indulge in wine.

Towards dusk we all rose from table, and followed his highness to an open space on the banks of the Goomty river, where sofas and seats were placed on a *chebootra*, a low terrace of stone or *chunam*, over which a spacious awning of crimson and white, supported by four lofty gilt poles, and having a curtain or screen of the same behind, was spread. Scarcely were we all seated when a very splendid display of fire-works, in the making of which the natives of India excel, burst forth with great brilliancy, and continued about a quarter of an hour, with as many various and beautiful changes as I have any where witnessed. A *nautch* meanwhile was performing by a corps of the Nuwab's dancing-girls: they were, however, very inferior to many other sets I had seen in the lower country.

The next morning we received the farewell presents of his highness, consisting of utter of roses, and an ornament or badge for the neck, suspended on a string of large but very ill-shaped and discoloured pearls. We were detained two days longer by excessively heavy rains, and in our return to Lucnow, found the whole country inundated. It was with some difficulty we made good our way to Khanpore. The Ganges opposite to that cantonment had so much overflowed its usual limits, that it

was full four miles broad: it had not been known so high for many years, being five feet above its ordinary level at this season.

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A negotiation, which had long been pending between the Indian government and the Seikh chief, Rungeet Singh, and which it appeared there was little prospect of adjusting amicably, induced the sending of a British force in that direction, to give our arguments more weight, and present at once the olive-branch and the sword. This corps of troops assembled far to the northward, near four hundred miles above Khanpore, and close upon the north-western frontier of the Company's territory at that period. Being attached to this force, I left Khanpore as soon as possible; and as expedition was highly requisite, I took the resolution of travelling by *dawk*, or what would be denominated in Europe by post. The main difference is, that here you travel much at ease in your own palanquin, and at the very fair rate of four miles per hour. This vehicle admits of your sitting up or lying down; or you can get out and take an occasional walk, without in any way impeding the bearers who carry you. The only preparatory measure to take on starting is, to give due notice of the day and hour you propose commencing your journey to all the postmasters through whose districts you will pass. They will have the regular sets of bearers at every stage, and you are shifted from the shoulders of one to those of another set, frequently without being conscious of it. On most of the routes European settlers are met with, and at the several stations travellers are always welcome visitors to the magistrates or collectors, who abundantly supply your wants. Such is British society in India. I completed without accident the four hundred miles in four days; nor did I feel fatigued so much as I had anticipated. An officer who accompanied me was not so fortunate, as he lost two travelling-baskets with linen and clothes, cut off by some thieves, who follow persons thus moving, and often catch a loiterer. The baggage is carried in two large round baskets covered with leather, slung one

at each end of an elastic bamboo, which is carried on a bearer's shoulder. Each set, which consists of eight for each palanquin, carry you about eight or ten miles, sometimes more.

The greater part of the troops had assembled by the time we reached the point of rendezvous, and in a few days the remainder joined. We advanced and crossed the Jumna at Boorea-Ghaut, which is here divided into numerous channels, running rapidly over a pebbly bed, fordable every where, and its stream clear as crystal. The day previous to moving, our heavy baggage and camp-equipage had arrived, having marched from Khanpore the four hundred miles in eighteen days. It was principally carried by elephants and camels. We pursued the route through Mustaphabad, Amballa, and Mogul ka Serai; near which we had a bad and dangerous nullah to ford, where several accidents occurred. The country is level, mostly open, with some jungle, and also fine cultivation. Every village was fortified; a precaution very necessary on a frontier line, which is alternately ravaged by both parties, and by marauders who belong to neither. The fortification seldom surpasses a thick, high, and solid mud wall, with a high tower as a look-out post.

The army thence marched by Patarsi and Rajpoora, a considerable town, surrounded with a wall of brick, and having turrets at the angles. There is also a very fine *serai* close to it. We had been marching for some time past upon the great royal road formed in the days of the greatest wealth and splendour of India, for the annual visits of the emperors to Lahore, Candahar, and Cabul. It is still in fine order, and the distances marked throughout by high pillars of red stone at every two koss, or three and a half miles English. Numerous splendid *serais* are also met with from distance to distance on the road-side, for the accommodation of the traveller at the same period, where for about three-pence a man and horse were fed and lodged well for the night. These *serais* are usually in the form of a square of great extent, some of three or four hundred yards; their walls, surmounted by a parapet, are from

thirty to fifty feet high; and their entrance is always by a grand gateway of massive structure, and beautifully ornamented by Mosaic work or sculpture. Our camp this day was in front of the ancient city of Sirhind, once so famous for its commerce and manufacture of silks, and whence silk was first brought to Europe, as also the mode of working it, in the sixth century. I rode through its ruins, which are very extensive, and exhibit traits, although melancholy ones, of its former consequence and wealth. At present not one building is perfect.

Not far from these ruins are those of a very fine palace, used it is believed by the emperors of Hindoostan in their annual excursions to Cashmere. This ruin stands on a rising ground, and occupies with its gardens a square of a full quarter of a mile. Its principal entrance is to the north. On entering you find a court, now under cultivation; at the end opposite is a building of two stories; passing under this through an arched gateway, a second extensive square is entered. A large tank of water occupies nearly the whole of this space, and a causeway on arches leads up its centre to the principal building, containing two fine halls below, and other apartments above. The roof and all the ceilings have fallen in. A third square is behind this, and has been originally a garden, laid out in a very ancient style: down the centre is a broad and fine walk, with a row of fountains on each side, twenty yards asunder. At the end of this walk are the *hummaum*, or hot baths. The whole is terminated by a terrace, running the breadth of the area, and having a turret at each end. One is a heap of ruins; that on the west is tolerably perfect. I ascended its summit, which commands a fine view of the surrounding country and the city of Sirhind. This edifice was erected by the Derveish Sultan Hafiz in the reign of Alungire.

The army moved from Sirhind, and, preceded by a strong advanced corps, arrived after two marches within about eighteen miles of the Sutlooj river, the first and most easterly of the five which form the Punjab. Our advance was in position on its left

bank. The country through which we had for some days been marching belonged, by the right of conquest, to the Seikh nation; but the latter had all retired behind the river, of which they occupied the bank opposite to our advance, and several large bodies could be distinguished dispersed further inland. All are cavalry, and it is said Runjeet Singh can bring into the field 30,000 of this arm. The Seikhs are a fine, manly, and athletic race of men, skilled in all the martial exercises, and far superior in feature and bodily strength to the more southern natives of Hindoostan. Their country is celebrated for its fine climate and its productive soil. It has increased much in power and influence of late years, and at the present day is the only state left in perfect independence and full liberty from British influence; and it is in consequence the only one whose hostility might prove formidable to us.

During our march up from the Jumna, we had once or twice obtained partial glimpses of the hills to the north and eastward, which form the great barrier between India and China: behind the lower hills rises another and more elevated range; and a third considerably overtops these. Lastly towers the mighty chain of Himalaya, which was always considered by men of science to have a great elevation, from their snow-white summits being sometimes seen like a distant cloud amid the vapours of the horizon; but no attempts were made to determine their exact position and distance until within these few years, when the East India Company sent an expedition, composed of engineers and men of science, to solve the mystery. These, after a laborious and most arduous service, perfectly succeeded in the main object of their attempt; and the result is, that this chain of Himalaya is decided by actual observation to exceed very far in perpendicular height the Andes, hitherto considered the most elevated points of the globe. The White Mountain of the Himalaya range is five English miles in perpendicular elevation above the level of the sea.

This chain had been beheld by but few of the British in India. We were more fortunate; for in the position we now occupied, we were considerably nearer to them

than a person could be in any part of the lower provinces, having gradually approached them in our movement upwards. Still we had not as yet seen them, until Nature herself drew up the veil which concealed them from our view, and displayed them at once in all their majesty. We had been encamped for five or six days near the town of Pahil; the weather had been fine and warm for the season, the month of February: a considerable haze is the natural consequence of such a state of the atmosphere. On the 6th there fell some showers of rain about noon; and towards four o'clock p. m. this was followed by one of those dreadful and tremendous tornados which frequently occur, and lay desolate the finest and most fruitful tracts of tropical countries. The lightning was most vivid and incessant; the thunder burst in the most awful peals; while the hail, or rather fragments of ice, many of which measured an inch and a quarter in diameter, exceeded any thing that had been before witnessed by the oldest inhabitants of India. This was followed by a deluge of rain, such as I never saw before or since, accompanied by a deep gloom, which rendered the scene more imposing and terrific; while violent gusts of wind speedily laid prostrate a large portion of our encampment, the wet soil being incapable of retaining the tent-pins. The horses, camels, and other cattle, buffeted by the hail-stones, and alarmed at the lightning, broke from their fastenings, and rushing wildly about in every direction through the camp, got entangled in the tent-cords, and tore up many a tent that would otherwise have withstood the storm. The tent I was in was a large and stout one, but it required the whole of my servants to keep it standing by holding on with all their might to the two poles. We thus weathered the storm, which had come from the south-west. Towards sunset it cleared away, and the evening brightened up. As the mists dissipated, the faintly traced outline of the lower range of hills became apparent; and soon beyond these another and loftier tier raised its blue crest, till at length the evening having settled into clear and serene, the light vapours were drawn up, and collected in the form of fleecy clouds; and as they rose, the grand

and lofty summits of Himalaya were seen towering to that height that the mind could with difficulty believe them to form part of our earth; they more resembled the clouds of heaven. Their mass was covered with a clothing of everlasting snows, which, tinged with the last beams of the declining sun, that had long disappeared to us, and assuming that pure and aerial rosy blush, never seen but on the more elevated summits of the earth, sweetly contrasted with the deep and calm blue of the Indian summer sky. It was a scene, contrasted with the horrors of the forenoon, that inspired sensations of delight, which those only who witnessed it can fully appreciate. All were fascinated; it was the topic for many days. The whole camp were out, with eyes riveted in admiration on the magnificent effect before them; nor did they cease to gaze until the sober veil of evening wrapped all nature in its soft and silent folds, and left them to dwell in imagination on the magnificent and enchanting fairy scene.

Our division of troops never advanced further than this position near Pahil. The Seikh commander, convinced that we were in earnest, and alarmed by the near approach of our main body, consented to the terms offered by the Company's envoy. The army consequently returned by the route they had advanced, leaving a strong post at the village of Ludhiana; and assuming the line of the Sutlooj river as the boundary of the Seikh country and our provinces, a strong field-work was thrown up there, sufficiently respectable to withstand a *coup-de-main*.

The army received orders to break up at Dehli, and the corps to resume their former quarters and cantonments. My shortest route would have been through the Doo-ab, by the road I had already travelled by *dawk*: I, however, obtained permission to accompany a regiment of cavalry, which was to follow the route by Dehli and Agra, renowned in the pages of history as the capitals of the Indian empire in its days of power and splendour.

We passed in this route many places of interest as the scenes of events highly



famed in ancient times; many remains also of magnificent works of art, now scarcely to be traced even by their ruins. Among others the field of Panniput, the theatre of that dreadful and destructive battle already recorded in this work, where the great struggle took place between the Mahratta hordes and all the Mussulman powers. We thus approached Dehli by rapid marches, and entered the ruins of that city in fifteen marches from the frontier. On this route their extent is not great, and we soon entered the new city, which was built and named by Shah Jehan, Shah Jehanabad. This is the modern Dehli, and the capital of Hindoostan: we passed through a great part of this city, and out at the Water-gate, and encamped near the beautiful tomb of the emperor Humaioon, built by his son Acber. Dehli has now a circumference of about six English miles, including the palace of the emperor. It has seven gates, the Lahore, Dehli or Water-gate, Agimere, Moor, Turkoman, Cabul, and Cashmere.

On the morning after our arrival I waited on the British resident, who received me with the kindest attentions: after breakfast, he told me he had obtained the emperor's permission for my seeing the palace, and introduced to me a native gentleman of rank, who was to be my guide. The first visit was to the Jumah Musjid, the cathedral of Dehli, that is, the principal mosque, situated on a high mound of rock, and nearly in the centre of the city. It has three grand gates, the principal one to the eastward; by this, ascending a flight of forty steps, we entered: its doors are of solid brass. The area in which this magnificent mosque stands is about fourteen hundred yards square. The building itself is an oblong, two hundred and sixty-one feet in length, and surmounted with three white marble domes, banded with black; and at each of the two front extremities is a lofty and graceful minaret of three stories, of red and white stone striped, and one hundred and thirty feet high. I ascended the minaret on the right hand, and from thence had an extensive and grand view of

the city of Dehli, the palace, and the country beyond to a great distance. The erection of this building, by Shah Jehan, cost 125,000*l*. Near it is seen the mosque of Roshun ul Dowlah, of red stone, with three golden domes, in which Nadir Shah sat during the massacre of the inhabitants, when in one morning 100,000 persons of all descriptions were slaughtered.

We next proceeded to the palace, a view of which is given in *Plate XXI*. and entered by the West-gate. The walls are about forty feet high, composed of blocks of the red stone. We then entered the gate called the Nia Khana: here we were requested to leave our swords and *chattah*, or umbrellas.

The first principal building we came to was the *Dewan Aum*, or Hall of Audience, at the upper end of a large paved square. Here is a throne of pure marble, on which the emperor sits; and below a large slab of marble, nine feet by five, and once inlaid with precious stones, on which sat the vizir, the Bukshee, the Jyepore, and Joudpore rajahs: this hall is supported on marble pillars.

Thence we went through a handsome gateway to the Dewan Khass. It is at the further end of a beautiful square, and elevated on a terrace of marble: its dimensions are one hundred and fifty feet in front, and forty feet deep. The roof is flat; the ceiling, exquisitely painted and gilt, is supported by rows of columns of white marble, finely sculptured, and which have once been richly inlaid in mosaic. In the centre of this splendid edifice is the musnud, or low throne on which the emperor sat; and near it is a large block of pure crystal, four feet long by three wide, and two feet thick. It is I think the most beautiful stone I ever saw. Near this are the royal baths, consisting of three spacious rooms, with domes of white marble, and lighted from the top through windows of stained glass. The walls are of marble, as is also the floor; and the latter very beautifully inlaid with patterns of flowers in mosaic, all composed of cornelians, jasper, and other semiprecious stones.

Not far from these baths is the private mosque of the emperor, a small highly



T. Sutherland sculp.

PALACE of the KING of DEHLI,  
TAKEN FROM THE PRINCIPAL MOSQUE.

London. Published by R. ACKERMANN, 10, Strand, Dec. 7, 1824.



*T. Sutherland sculp.*

The CUTTUB MINAR in the RUINS of ANCIENT DEHLI.

finished edifice of white marble, surmounted by three golden domes. This palace is about one mile in circumference.

The gardens were next visited: they contain, however, nothing remarkable. There were some wild beasts, of the leopard and lynx species, kept for hunting the deer. There is also one block of marble, formed into a reservoir, nine feet square, and four deep.

The following day I accompanied an officer to see the remains of part of ancient Dehli; and among other works of art erected in the olden time of India's glory, one object is particularly worthy of remark: this is the Cuttub Minar, a pillar of stone, which equals, if not exceeds, any other known both in form and height, and is situated in the midst of the ruins of the ancient capital of India. It is represented in *Plate XXII*. Little remains at the present day of its palaces; nothing of its private buildings but rubbish: but its tombs, those grand piles of masonry of various, of noble, and some of elegant form and proportion, being always erected without the walls, mark very correctly by their vast circuit the amazing extent which old Dehli embraced in the days of its splendour.

The height of this pillar is two hundred and forty-five English feet, and its circumference at the base is one hundred and fifty-six feet. It had formerly five stories, with a spiral staircase of three hundred and four stone steps leading up to the very summit. The earthquake, however, of 30th September, 1803, seriously injured the upper story, having thrown down a part, and strewed the remains on the stairs below, so as much to impede the passage up. This pillar appears to be cased on the exterior with stone, of the red granite kind; and this casing, after a close inspection, will be found of a different quality, and of more modern workmanship, than the mass of the interior. The view from the summit is very grand and extensive over a vast plain, in which remains of buildings and tombs are seen as far as the eye can discern.

It is to this day a subject of doubt and discussion at what period this column was

reared, for what purpose, and by what prince, and whether it owes its existence to Hindoo or Mussulman. It is claimed by both sects. The form of the building, which quite resembles the minaret, would assign it to the latter; but the Hindoos contend that it was erected by them previously to the arrival of the Mahommedans, and the latter, jealous of the beauty of the pile, gave it the casing of stone which covers it. There are certainly the remains of a very large and grand Hindoo temple surrounding this pillar, and some colonnades with stone pillars are evidently the sculpture of that people. It is equally certain that the period of its erection must be long anterior to the era fixed by the Mahommedans, the reign of Behadur Shah.

To the north of the Cuttub Minar is a lofty pillar of solid iron, twenty-six feet above ground, and the size of a man's body. To the east is a building surmounted by a dome, in which the sculpture is exquisite; the whole of the red stone. On the bands of darker stone which encircle this pillar are characters beautifully cut in alto relievo; and each story has a door to the west. On the whole it is an interesting object, well deserving the attention of the curious, and the researches of those learned in the language and history of this extraordinary country to trace it to its origin.

Having satisfied myself with the view of the antiquities and splendid remains of ancient Dehli, I proceeded down the Doo-ab to visit the fort and palace of Agra, for a long period the rival city of Dehli. When the emperor Acber Shah in 1570 returned from his expedition towards Lucnow to punish the rebellious chiefs, Zeman Khan and Behadur Khan, who had erected the standard of revolt, he returned to Agra, which place he determined for the future to make his principal residence; and accordingly commanded his whole court to be moved thither from Dehli. The old part of Agra being much gone to decay, and the palace, the former residence of the Patan kings, very incommodious, he resolved to rebuild them both, and in a style becoming the founder and the monarch of so mighty an empire.

As the building of Agra, and of the stupendous and noble fortress, decidedly ranks among the most magnificent works of Acber's reign, the following account, taken from *the Indian Antiquities*, will perhaps be acceptable in this place to the reader :

Agra, called Agara by Ptolemy, who, however, by no means placed it in his map of India in a latitude corresponding with the modern maps, which is marked in  $27^{\circ} 15'$  north, owed its importance, and indeed its existence as a capital, to the munificence of Acber. That emperor, pleased with its situation on the bank of the Jumna river, and incited perhaps by its proximity to the kingdoms of the Deccan, raised Agra from an inconsiderable fortified town to an eminence in splendour, beauty, and renown, which no city in India, not even Dehli itself, had ever before enjoyed. This monarch had far advanced in the completion of the proud structures of the palace at Futtehpore Sicre, of which the remains still shew the original grandeur, when on a sudden he relinquished them, to execute his more noble and extensive projects at Agra. Indeed the projects of Acber were all vast and comprehensive, like the mind that formed them. In the important plans for which peace gave leisure, as well as in the more dazzling scenes of martial glory, his genius and his abilities seemed to soar alike superior to the rest of mankind.

Acber, after having determined to make Agra an imperial residence, ordered the old wall of earth, with which the city had been inclosed by the Patan monarchs, to be destroyed, and rebuilt with hewn stone, brought from the quarries at Futtehpore. This undertaking, however considerable, was finished with no great difficulty, and within no very protracted period. But to rebuild Agra and its castle in a manner worthy of the designer, and calculated to render it the metropolis of the greatest empire in Asia, required the unwearied exertions of one of the greatest monarchs whom Asia had ever beheld.

For the full completion of his magnificent plan, Acber, by the promise of ample rewards, collected from every quarter of his dominions the most skilful architects,

and the most celebrated artists in every branch both of external ornament and domestic decoration; and some idea may be formed of the great labour and expense required to perfect the whole undertaking, when the reader learns, that the palace alone took up twelve years in finishing, kept above a thousand labourers constantly employed during that period, and cost nearly three millions of rupees. The castle itself, the largest ever built in India, was in the form of a crescent, along the banks of the Jumna, which becomes at this place in its progress to the Ganges a very considerable river. Its lofty walls were composed of stones of an enormous size, hard as marble, and of a reddish colour, resembling jasper, which at a distance, in the rays of the sun, gave it a shining and beautiful appearance.

This palace was four miles in extent, and consisted of three courts, adorned with many stately porticoes, galleries, and turrets, all richly painted and gilded, and some even overlaid with plates of gold. The first court, built round with arches, that afforded a pleasant shade, so desirable amid the heats of a burning climate, was intended for the imperial guard; the second, for the great Omrahs and ministers of state, who had their several apartments for the transaction of the public business; and, lastly, the third court, within which was contained the seraglio, consisting entirely of the stately apartments of the emperor himself, hung round with the richest silks of Persia, and glittering with a profusion of Indian wealth. Behind these were the royal gardens, laid out in the most exquisite taste, and decorated with all that could gratify the eye, regale the ear, or satiate the most luxurious palate; the loveliest shade, the deepest verdure, grottoes of the most refreshing coolness, fruits of the most delicious flavour, cascades that never ceased to murmur, and music that never failed to delight. In the front of the castle, towards the river, a large area was left for the exercising of the royal elephants and the battles of the wild beasts, in which the emperors of India used to take great pleasure; and in a square of vast extent, that separated the palace from the city, a numerous army was constantly en-



camped, whose shining armour and gorgeous ensigns diffused a glory round them, and added greatly to the splendour of the scene.

But if this palace was thus grand and magnificent externally, what a splendid scene must its interior have displayed! Mandeslo, who visited Agra in 1638, and saw that city in the meridian of its glory, after stating that the palace altogether was the grandest object he had ever beheld, that it was surrounded by a wall of freestone and a broad ditch, with a drawbridge at each of its gates, adds, that at the further end of the third court was seen a row of silver pillars under a piazza, and beyond this court was the presence-chamber; that this more spacious apartment was adorned with a row of golden pillars of a smaller size, and within the balustrade was the royal throne of massy gold, almost incrustated over with diamonds, pearls, and other precious stones. Above this throne was a gallery, where the Mogul appeared every day at a certain time to hear and to redress the complaints of his subjects; and no person whatever, except the sons of the emperor, were admitted behind these pillars of gold. The same traveller also mentions an apartment in the castle very remarkable for its high tower, which was covered with massy gold, and for the treasure which it contained, having eight large vaults filled with gold, silver, and precious stones, the value of which was inestimable.

In a line with the palace, along the banks of the same river, were ranged the magnificent palaces of the princes and great rajahs, who vied with each other in adorning the new metropolis; the majestic edifices of which met the delighted eye, intersected with lofty trees, wide canals, and beautiful gardens. Determined to make it the wonder and envy of the East, and to bury both its former name and obscurity in equal oblivion, the emperor gave his own name to the rising capital, calling it Acberabad; while he enriched it with the noblest monuments of royal munificence that human ingenuity could plan, or human industry could execute.

Our first object, after viewing the noble works we have described, was the tomb of the emperor Acber, shewn in *Plate XXIII*. This celebrated mausoleum of the greatest monarch recorded by history as having ever sat on the throne of Hindoostan, when that empire was at its highest pitch of splendour and power, still bears the character of that grandeur which its inmate once enjoyed: it is, however, fast falling to decay, and a few years more will probably see it a mere ruin. It is situated in an inclosure, which was once a garden, and still contains some fine trees. A wall, thirty feet high, and of a quadrangular form, each side being about six hundred yards, surrounds the tomb: in the centre of each face is a handsome gateway, covered with mosaic work in vivid-coloured stones and marbles. The gate to the south is the largest, and is denominated the Grand Gateway: it has white marble turrets at each angle, of a circular form, the building itself being an oblong square, and it is surmounted by a pavilion. Entering this gateway, a fine broad causeway of stone leads up to the tomb.

The tomb consists of five tiers or stories, the four lower of the red granite, the upper of pure white marble in elegant fret-work. The jollies, or screen, which surround the cenotaph placed in the centre, are richly and beautifully sculptured: this upper apartment is open at top.

Below the lower story you descend by a very gradually sloping passage to the tomb of the emperor, a plain white marble slab, of very large size.

Acber was buried here in the year 1604, and on the tomb of this illustrious monarch is inscribed simply—"ACBER."

The site of this noble monument is close to the small village of Secundra, and about five miles from the fort of Agra, the most celebrated fortress in this part of Hindoostan.

At some distance from Agra to the westward, and about fifteen miles from the



*J. Sutherland sculp.*

GRAND GATEWAY and TOMB of the EMPEROR ACBER at SECUNDRA.

main road from Dehli to that fortress, are the remains of a palace, called Futteh-pore Sicre, built by the emperor Acber. I rode to visit these singular remains of a most splendid and wonderful work, quite worthy of the illustrious founder of Agra.

We have omitted one beautiful and chaste building in the fort of Agra, which deserves to be recorded: it is denominated the Mootee Musjid, formerly the principal mosque of the place. It consists of four parallel rows of nine arches each, and is surmounted with three domes, but has no minarets. Although very inferior in size to the Jumah Musjid of Dehli, it rivals that monument in beauty, and surpasses it in chasteness of design and execution.

I made an excursion from Agra to visit another of the palaces of the magnificent Acber, situated to the westward of Agra, and one of high interest, as containing remains, only in part injured by time, of the grand and noble schemes and plans of this illustrious warrior and legislator. This singular and impressive structure is built of a red granite, and has wonderfully withstood the assaults of time: it forms part of a palace on a very grand and extensive scale, erected by Acber, the greater part of which is now a heap of ruins. These, however, still retain visible traces of its former magnificence and splendour, and in its perfect state it must have exceeded any thing of the kind in Hindoostan.

The approach to this palace is through a very extensive park, once stocked with every species of game; the wall surrounding which is said to have been six koss, or nine English miles, in extent. The gate to enter this park is a fine pile of building of the red granite, surmounted by two pavilions: hence, through the park for half a mile, you see the remains of various buildings scattered around, and making your way through heaps of rubbish, you enter the great square or court, on the south side of which the grand hall of forty pillars is situated. All the buildings are of the same material, and the square is paved with large slabs of the same. The scene presented to the

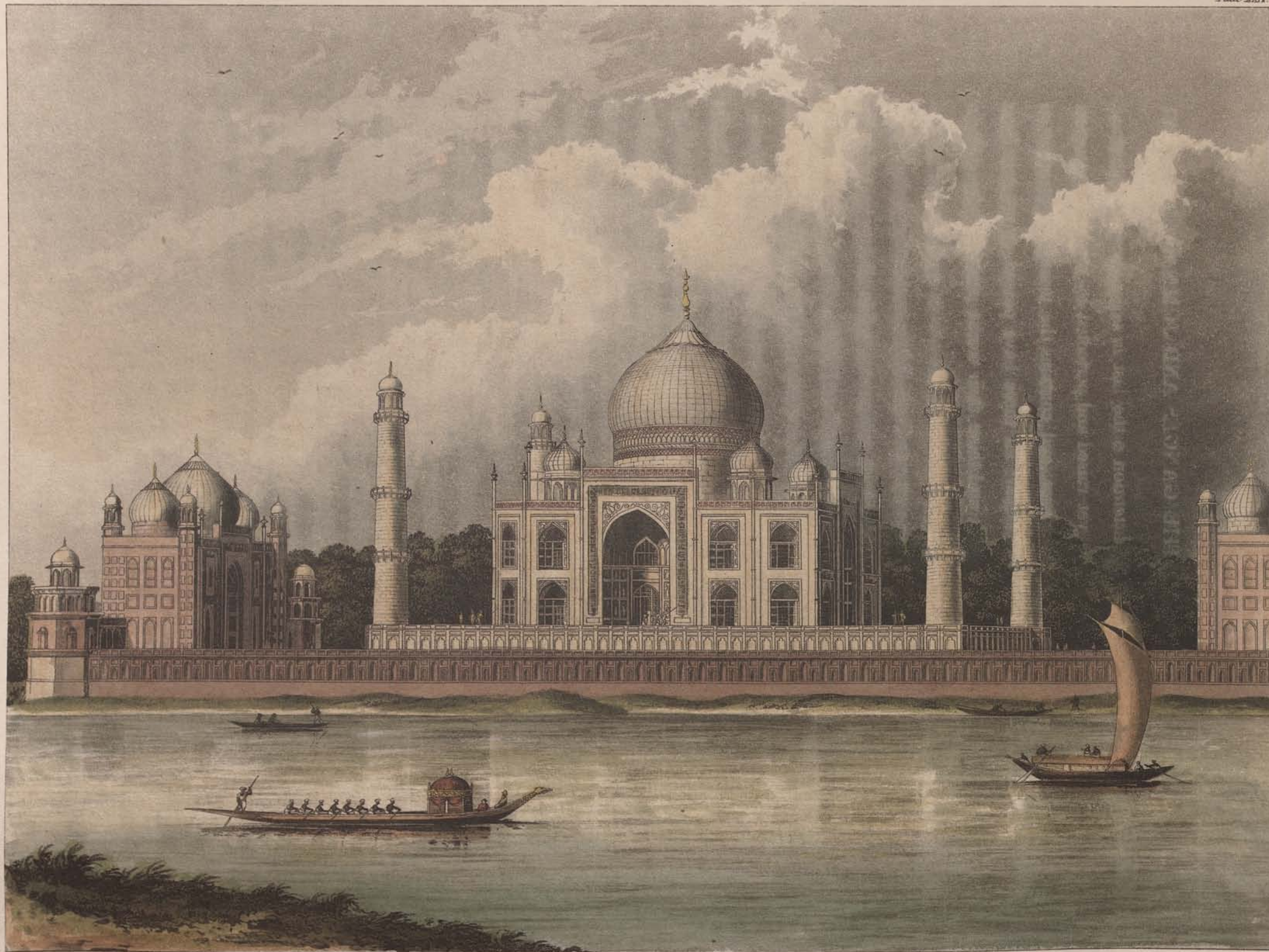
eye is singularly impressive and interesting; there is a grandeur, an awful vastness in the massive buildings which surround it, recalling to the mind by their unique form times far gone by. Add to this the now solemn silence which reigns around these halls, where once every thing was bustle, splendour, and carousing. All is passed away as a dream, but the hall still stands in proud yet gloomy majesty.

The hall of forty pillars consists of five tiers or stories, diminishing as they successively rise; the upper one being a square pavilion supported on four pillars; the lower row consists of seven.

There is a college founded by a Mahomedan saint, Shaik Selim Shaisteh, in the reign of Jehanguire: it is a very fine edifice, and is built in a square form, surrounded by a high wall, having three gateways, of which the grand gateway is magnificent beyond description. This is said to have been erected by a merchant, in consequence of a vow he made to the saint in question.

The village of Futteh-pore is close under this gateway, but below it considerably. As we descended to this place we saw a very large *bhowlee*, or well, used as a habitation during the excessive heats of summer. This was unusually large, having a circumference of ninety feet, with apartments all round, as far down as the level of the water, which might be thirty feet from the surface. There was a fine and broad stone staircase to descend to these apartments.

The tomb of the saint, Selim Shaisteh, is also near the village, formed of the purest white marble, and having round it a screen of the same material in a beautiful and rich fret-work. Entering the tomb, the floor is paved with yellow and white marble slabs. In the centre stands the cenotaph, with a canopy over it, supported by four pillars, overlaid with mother of pearl. Thousands of scraps of rags of all colours are tied to the windows of this tomb, which commemorate the vows and wishes of those who have here offered up their prayers.



T. Sutherland sculp.

The TAJ MAHAL, TOMB of the EMPEROR SHAH JEHAN and his QUEEN .

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The object which now calls our attention is the last in order, but of the highest beauty and interest of any structure yet raised and perfected by man in any region of the earth. It is only a tomb it is true, and contains the mouldering remains of what was noble, powerful, and beautiful: all these have passed away; but their names, their fame, their deeds remain; and these their works promise to hand down to distant ages their well-earned renown.

This tomb, the mausoleum of the emperor Shah Jehan and his favourite queen, Moomtaz ul Zemani (or Wonder of the Age), still exists, and in all its pristine beauty and perfection, as may be seen on reference to *Plate XXIV*. Time, with his efforts for a period of two hundred years, has as yet scarcely cast one sully stain on its pure and lovely mass.

The first approach to this wonderful work by no means gives an idea of the splendid scene which is to be encountered: the road is impeded and the eye bewildered by the ruins of old brick and stone buildings, said to have once been a *serai*, or place for the accommodation of travellers, or more probably pilgrims who came to visit this monument.

The main gateway is seen after passing these ruins; it faces nearly south, and is constructed with the red stone, but ornamented in panels of rich mosaic in various parts. It is a massive and lofty pile, and has apartments in its upper part, which can be ascended by a staircase, and from whence is a fine view of the tomb. This building is an octagon, and after passing under its grand portal, a scene bursts at once upon the eye, which dazzles the senses, and wraps every other feeling in that of astonishment. The Taje appears embosomed in a mass of foliage of a deep green at the further extremity of a large and handsome garden, with its lofty and elegant minarets, and its dome of extreme beauty and airy lightness; the whole of the purest white marble, richly inlaid in patterns of the semiprecious stones, as cornelian, jasper, onyx, and a variety of others of all hues.

A noble causeway of stone, raised considerably above the level of the garden, leads up to the main building, in the centre of which is a range of fountains, fifty in number; and midway a large basin, in which five other *jets-d'eau* of much greater height are thrown up.

The garden is filled with trees of almost every kind common to India; some bearing fruits, others perfuming the air with the odoriferous scents of their blossoms.

The Taje stands on two terraces; the lower and largest, of an oblong shape, is composed wholly of red stone: this is ascended by a flight of steps, and on reaching the summit, a large mosque is perceived at each end of it, which, in any other situation than so close to their lovely companion, would be considered as noble and splendid edifices. These may be ascended, and from their upper apartments command good views of the main building.

To the second or upper terrace, which has a height of about fifteen feet, you ascend by a flight of white marble steps: of these the upper slab or landing-place is one piece of pure white marble, nine feet square. This upper terrace is floored with a chequered pavement of red and white. Upon this stands the tomb, surrounded by a marble balustrade; at each angle of which rises a graceful minaret of three stories, in sweet proportions. At each story is a door, which opens on a balustraded balcony surrounding it. The summit is finished by a light pavilion, with a small golden ornament on its top.

All that now presents itself to the eye of the spectator is pure, unsullied, white marble, variously ornamented. The entrance to the building is on the side opposite to the grand gateway. It is a lofty portico, with an arch partaking of the form of the Gothic order, but differing in its proportions. Round the upper part of this are inscriptions in Arabic, done in black marble on the white ground.

Previous to viewing the grand chamber where the cenotaphs of the emperor and his queen are placed, it is usual to descend by a trap-door, situated in the entrance,



into a gradually sloping passage, which conducts to the graves of the royal dead. The vault is lined with marble, and the pavement is of the same material. In the centre is the grave of the queen, for whom this mausoleum was solely intended; and the emperor's design was to have erected a similar edifice on the opposite bank of the Jumna, which river washes the foot of the Taje Mahal, and has a breadth of five or six hundred yards. The magnificent monarch did not mean to rest here; he meditated the joining the two mausoleums by a marble bridge, ornamented in the same splendid manner. Civil wars, caused by the rebellion of his four sons, suspended and finally put an end to these magnificent projects; and after a variety of sufferings, this unfortunate prince died in his prison in the fort of Agra, where he was held captive for seven years by his son Aurungzebe, then reigning emperor of Hindoostan.

Returning to the light of day, we entered the centre chamber. Description must here fail, nor can imagination figure any thing so solemnly grand, so stilly beautiful, as the scene thus suddenly presented to the view. Every tongue is mute, every sense lost in admiration. There are no gaudy, glaring decorations to arrest the vulgar eye; no glittering gold or silver to mark the riches of India's monarch. There is an awe, a feeling of deep reverence for the sacred spot on which we tread; an involuntary pause, a breathless suspension, and a recollection of, and recurrence to, events long past, which this scene conjures up in the breast of all who witness it for the first time.

Imagine a vaulted dome, of considerable height, of the most elegant and light Gothic architecture, all composed of the finest and the whitest marble; its form octagonal. In the centre stands a screen of the same, wrought into the most lovely patterns in fret-work, shewing a freedom of design and extreme minuteness of execution, unequalled in this or perhaps any other country. The form of this screen corresponds with that of the apartment, an octagon with four larger and four lesser faces. At

each angle are two pilasters, on which the most beautiful running patterns of various flowers, true to nature, rise from the base of this screen, while a broad and rich border of the same surrounds the upper part. There are two arched door-ways in this screen opposite to each other, and over the top of which is a rich pattern of a stone perfectly resembling the purest matt gold. An entablature of the richest pattern surrounds the upper part of the screen; and in a border of pomegranate-flowers, which runs the whole length of it, every full-blown flower contains no less than sixty-one pieces of various coloured stones, according to the different shades required, and joined with such exactness and extreme nicety, that with a sharp-pointed penknife no seam can be distinguished. Within this screen are the two cenotaphs, on which the sculptor and mosaic artist have lavished all their skill. These are blocks of marble, and apparently one stone, ten feet in length by six broad. Below and above this are larger slabs, forming the pediment and cornice. A rich and large pattern is on the four faces of the cenotaphs, the two differing from each other; and the upper tablet on the queen's tomb has a cluster of flowers, arranged in the most elegant and free style of design; while that of the emperor is surmounted by the *kullum daun*, the distinguishing sign for a man, the woman not having this ornament. This screen had gates of silver in open filigree-work, which were carried off by some of the invaders of India. This tomb is not altogether the work or design of artists of Hindoostan: I have seen a list of the names of all the master-masons, sculptors, and artizans: the greater part are from Persia, Cabul, and some even from Constantinople, or Turkey, called by the Indians *Roum*.

Some traces of similar inlaying and mosaic are met with at Dehli and in the palace at Agra; but the art is now lost, if it ever existed, among the Hindoostannies; and this tends to confirm the idea that it was the work of foreign artists.

The main part of this splendid edifice has fortunately been respected by all the

invaders of Hindoostan, its great beauty being probably its protection. It is as pure and perfect as the day it was finished; and with common care, in the equal climate in which it is situated, it may last for centuries.

With the description of this wonder of the world, the Tour of the author closes. He is well aware that some errors may possibly be found in it; but these are almost inseparable from a work written, as this was, while moving rapidly through a country in which the subjects worthy of notice are so numerous and so widely scattered, that some, too many indeed, must be unavoidably passed unnoticed and unseen. As to the views, they are faithful copies from nature, in which no alterations have been made.

THE END.



*SICRE GULLY PASS, between Bengal and Bahar.*