PREFACE.

It had often occurred to me that a work, containing a brief historical, and political account of the Princes, Chiefs, and the local aristocracy of India as well as of the many native gentlemen, who have raised themselves above the surface of Indian Society, would be an acceptable contribution to our local literature. To readers of newspapers particularly such a book was felt to be likely to be very useful, as it would be helping to explain many allusions to names of native notabilities which are generally unintelligible. What scanty information that is available is practically inaccessible, either from the variety of the sources, in which it is comprised, or from the great cost of the few books, in which it is contained in a scattered and fragmentary form. As regards the great historical houses, which owe fealty to the British Crown, Aitchison’s edition of Treaties with the authorities on which the narrative part of his work is based, affords ample information; and Lieutenant Talbot’s edition of Aitchison’s work revised down to 1876, has been taken, as far as it could be utilised, as the groundwork for the first part of my own book. Colonel Tod’s Annals and Antiquities of Rajastan, Colonel Malleson’s Historical Sketch of the Native States of India, Sir John Malcolm’s Central India, Griffin’s Rajas of the Panjab, Wilks’ Munsur and Brooks’ History of Mewar have also been drawn upon. But it has been a far more difficult task to collect the history of the noble and leading families of India. No previous attempt has ever been made to do for the Indian Nobility and Gentry what Burke has done for the upper classes of the British Isles. It has consequently been necessary for me to apply direct to the heads of families scattered throughout the country for the necessary information which has in many cases been with difficulty procured. The information so collected will be published in the second part.

My original idea was to have thrown my work into the alphabetical and, therefore, convenient form, adopted with such success by the authors of the books of the English Peerage and Gentry. But as the information was being gathered from such scattered and distant quarters, I felt that that plan would be impracticable except at the risk of such
delay in publication, as would have been distasteful to the many Princes and Nobles who had contributed valuable materials towards the compilation of the book. Should my present venture meet with favourable acceptance, I hope to bring out a second edition of the book, considerably enlarged and arranged upon the most approved form.

The appended list of the works that have been consulted in the course of this compilation will bear testimony that no available source of authentic information has been neglected and that my labours have not been inconsiderable. I publish the first part in the earnest hope that, in estimating the value of the work, some reasonable allowance will be made for the novelty of the attempt, and for the great difficulties by which it was surrounded.

My grateful acknowledgments are due to the following Princes and Chiefs, who have been so kind as to favour me with valuable information regarding their States and families.

His Highness the Maharaja Holkar, Raja Sir T. Madhava Rao, K.C.S.I., Prime Minister of Baroda, His Highness the Maharaja of Kishengah, His Highness the Maharaja of Bikanir, His Highness the Maharawal of Dungarpur, His Highness the young Maharaja of Pattala (through the Regency Council), His Highness the Raja of Chamba, His Highness the young Maharawal of Ban-da, His Highness the Mahaana of Dharmpur, His Highness the Maharaja of Edur, His Excellency the Nawab Sahib of Radhanpur, His Highness the Thakur Sahib of Morvi, His Highness the Nawab Sahib of Balasinor, His Highness the Thakur Sahib Maharana of Wadwan, His Highness the Raja of Kochin, His Highness the Nawab of Maler Kotla, His Highness the Maharaja of Phal, then Highness the Rajas of Dewas, His Highness the Nawab of Jaora, His Highness Rao Maharaja of Dattia, His Highness the Maharaja of Charkari, His Highness the Raja of Garhwal (Tehr), His Highness the Raja of Sitamau, His Highness the Raja of Ratlam, His Highness the Jaghirdar of Akulkot, His Highness the Rao of Bhor or the Pant Sacheo Jaghir, His Highness the Rao of Alipura, His Highness the Thakur of Dura Kheri, His Highness the Maharaja of Dhenkanal, and several others.

Calcutta, 1st June, 1879. L. N. GHOSE.
1.1ST OF WORKS, &c., REFERRED TO.

1. Aitchison's Treaties, Engagements and Sunnuds, 1862.
2. Aitchison's Treaties (revised and continued up to 1876) by Lt. A.
   C. Talbot B.S.C., Attaché in the Foreign Department.
3. Mill's History of British India, 1858.
5. Elphinstone's History of India.
6. Sir John Malcolm's Central India
7. Marshman's History of India, 1876
8. Murray's History of British India, 1863
9. Hough's Political and Military Events in British India from
   1756 to 1849.
10. Gubbins' Account of the Mutinies in Oudh and of the Siege
    of the Lucknow Residency, 1858.
11. Home's Select Views in Mysore, the Country of Tippoo Sultan,
    from Drawings taken on the spot. With Historical Descrip-
    tions, 1794.
12. Kulkpatrick's Account of the Kingdom of Nepaul, being the
    substance of observations made during a mission to that
    country in the year 1793
15. Brooks' History of Mewar
16. Colonel G. B. Malleson's Historical Sketch of the Native States
    of India in subsidiary alliance with the British Government,
    1875
17. The Native Chiefs and their States, 1877.
18. Military Sketches of the Goorkha War in India, in the years
    1814-1815-1816
19. Minute by Earl Dalhousie on his Administration in India, dated
    28th February 1856.
20. Relations of the British Government with the Tribes, Indepen-
    dent and Dependant, on the N. W. Frontier of the Panjab
    from 1849 to 1855, published by authority from the records
    of the Government of India.
21. Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India
22. General Reports on the Administration of the Panjab Territories from 1849-50 to 1855-56.
23. Reports on the Political Administration of Rajputana from 1865-66 to 1877-78
24. Reports on the Political Administration of the Territories Comprised within the Central India Agency up to the year 1877-78.
27. Political History of the State of Jeypore (Selections from the records of the Government of India, Foreign Department) 1868.
28. George Wheeler's Chronicle of the visit of the Prince of Wales 1875-76.
30. Ditto Ditto Ditto 1st January 1878.