PREFACE

A work of reference containing the principal Fasti of Indian History from the time when European intercourse and commercial relations began with the East, on the discovery of the Cape of Good Hope near the close of the fifteenth century, has been felt as a desideratum by students and readers. For the earlier history the excellent manual of C. Mabel Duff (Mrs W. R. Rickmers) published 1899, supplied a much felt want, and the present volume forms the complement to that work,—the two forming a continuous chronology of events in India from the earliest times till the present.

About eight years ago materials for the volume were collected from the historical works of Orme, Briggs’s Ferishta, Elliot and Dowson, Mill and Wilson, Grant-Duff, Elphinstone, Marshman, Malleson, Kaye, Holmes, Danvers, Phayre, Trotter, and others—too numerous to mention. These were arranged in 1907, but laid aside. In now revising it for the press, much of it has been rewritten and considerably extended.

By writers of the eighteenth and most part of last century, Indian personal and place names were written in every variety of spelling—often in forms now scarcely recognisable. To avoid the confusion of such irregularities, proper names are here represented in general accordance with the system in use in the recent Gazetteers and Maps of the Indian Government and in several recent historical works.

The Index will be found pretty complete, and in it the
names of officers are often stated more fully than in the text, and with their subsequent ranks; to place-names are frequently added the districts in which they are; and occasional differences of spelling are corrected with a few other errata.

Differences in the dates of events are not unfrequent, occurring chiefly in translations of Muhammadan histories,—arising partly perhaps from inattention in computing the European from the Hijra reckoning,—but also from other sources,—and it is difficult to rectify such differences when they amount to a year or more. When careful research is applied to such matters, cases of the kind will in course of time be cleared up; and though none of them are of great importance, they may be corrected when a second edition of this handbook is required.

The book, it is hoped, will be found useful to all students of Indian history as well as to the general reader, and to others engaged in secretarial work.

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