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ON THE PRONUNCIATION OF INDIAN WORDS.

In pronouncing the vernacular words which occur in this book, it is only necessary for the general student to remember, that the words are not to be read with the peculiarly English sound of vowels: that is sure to be wrong. Adopt generally the Italian or 'continental' vowel list. The most prominent feature is the unaccented a, a short vowel pronounced as in 'organ' or as the u in jug; never like the a in fat. The accented å is the broad a of the French or Italian gates, lago; ś and Ĺ are respectively, as in the English words pit and peat; u and ū are—'oo'—the former shorter, the latter more prolonged. In this book, the u in any Indian word is never to be sounded like the u in 'jug', for that would be short a. The letter e is a diphthong, and sounded like ê in French; au is like 'how,' not like 'awc'; y is always a consonant.

Of consonants, it is only necessary to mention that th is never a sibilant (either as in this or thin) but only t with a slight aspirate ¹. The dh and gh (with a line under) are the gutturals of the Perso-Arabic (like 'loch' and 'lough' in Scotch or Irish). As there are two kinds of k, we use for the one k, and the other q without the conventional u added.

ABBREVIATIONS.

To save space, the letters L. R. are occasionally used instead of printing 'Land Revenue' at full length; so S. for 'Settlement'; and P. S. for 'Permanent Settlement.'

As 'Settlement' is a word which has other meanings (e.g. it may refer to a location or place of settlement of a colony, a tribe or a family), it is written with a capital S whenever the term is used in its technical or Revenue sense.


¹ In Burmese the sibilant th occurs, not in any Indian dialect.