PREFACE.

CHARLES ROBERT WILSON died in England on the 24th July, 1904. At the time of his death he had in an advanced state of preparation the second part of the second volume of the Early Annals of the English in Bengal. This second part, dealing with the Surman Embassy, has been completed and published (1911) with a preface by that distinguished scholar, the late Mr. William Irvine. There had also been printed off the whole of a third volume of the Annals, with the exception of the Introduction which had not been commenced, and the Index which remained to be compiled. There had also been printed off the first thirty-two pages of a fourth volume, and some sixty-two pages of this volume are extant in clean proof form. In regard to the almost complete Volume III, the feeling expressed by Mr. Irvine as to the Part II of Volume II has, ever since I knew of the existence of the printed sheets, been my own in regard to Volume III: "the fruit of great labour and strenuous research ought to be made available for those interested in the subject." The Government of India has most generously placed the sheets in my hands, and I feel certain that all students will be glad to have the present volume made available for their study, although, of course, it cannot be all that Dr. Wilson, had he lived, would have made it.

Dr. Wilson's Introductions were more than introductions. They were beautifully written narrative histories, and were based on much wider sources of information than those reproduced in his text. My personal feeling is that we needed to have the letters to and from Bengal and the Court before we
had the Consultations given us in either summaries or in extenso. The conclusion of Dr. Wilson’s *Annals* will leave a gap in the history of the English in Bengal, for we have at present no published work dealing with the years between 1722 and 1756. It is my feeling, however, that the student who undertakes to deal with that gap would best be left free to deal with the subject on his own lines rather than those of Dr. Wilson.

To Mr. William Foster, C.I.E., I am indebted for the portrait of Governor Feake; to Miss L. M. Anstey for the portrait of John Stackhouse and for information concerning the Feake Family; to Mr. J. P. E. Falconer for the portrait of his ancestor, Thomas Falconer.

In the first volume of the *Annals*, Dr. Wilson gave the current English spelling of such names as Delhi and Agra. In the present volume he writes Dihli and Ágrah. He is indeed not quite consistent, as will be seen in the Index. Personally I regret the change.

I would like to conclude this preface with an expression of my own deep gratitude to its distinguished author. In enjoyed for several years the great privilege of his friendship—an association based on a taste for the studies in which he was a master and hallowed by that love of holy things which is so prominent a feature in all Charles Wilson’s work. In the days when I edited the *Indian Church Quarterly Review*, Dr. Wilson was one of my most ready supporters, and the memory, not only of the aid liberally afforded to me in historical research, but in matters of religion, in which we two found ourselves united in devotion to the old paths, has made the present endeavour to rescue a part of the *Annals* a work of pride and affection.

*St. John’s House, Calcutta,*

*August 7th, 1917.*

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