

**NOTES ON THE
NORTH-WESTERN
PROVINCES OF INDIA**

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Notes on the North-Western Provinces of India by Charles Raikes

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CHARLES RAIKES

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NOTES
ON THE
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES
OF
INDIA.

BY CHARLES RAIKES,
MAGISTRATE AND COLLECTOR OF MYNPOORIE.

Dedicated to the Members of the Civil Service in India.

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HENRY MORSE STEPHENS

TO THE
UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA

INTRODUCTION.

THE Notes on the North-Western Provinces of India, which are now offered to the English reader, were written originally for the "Benares Magazine," and have, with the exception of the last paper, appeared in late numbers of that periodical. The humble attempt of the writer is to describe, in a popular manner, the working of our civil administration in that part of India to which he is attached by the ties of duty and long service. He is induced to offer his observations to a larger circle than is embraced by the "Benares Magazine"* by the following considerations. At the present moment, when the affairs of India engage the public attention, it is believed that a

* This periodical, able and deserving though it be, circulates as yet only amongst a small phase of English readers in India, and is scarcely known in England.

few simple details of the working of our Police and Revenue systems, though given by one who has better means of observing than talents for recording his observations, may be not unacceptable to the general reader. And if that increasing and important class of our public men in England, who take an intelligent interest in British India, should find here little that is new to them, there are still hundreds, nay, thousands, who would gladly see a popular description of the every-day duties which occupy their sons or brothers in the Indian Civil Service.

To that service the writer belongs. No one knows better than he does how dry are the subjects of Indian police practice or revenue science (for a science it is); but it is this very reason which has induced him to attempt, in some poor degree, to attract attention to questions so important to millions of our fellow-subjects. If, by his imperfect endeavour to sketch the condition of the people as affected by the policy of their English masters, he has added but one stone to the monument of Christian civilisation, which so many abler hands are striving to rear in India, his labour will not have been in vain.

Such being the scope of the writer, a few words more may be excused as to the detail of his book.

The first place has been given to the note on "Female Infanticide," because that paper has been honoured by the approbation of the Lieutenant-governor of Agra, to whom it was originally inscribed, and has been distributed by that distinguished statesman to the magistrates and other public servants in the Upper Provinces.

The next four numbers of the Notes, from two to five inclusive, belong to the subject of Landed Tenures in the North-Western Provinces. No. II. sketches the Rise and Progress of our Revenue System. No. III. sketches the Character of the Rajpoot Agriculturist, and the Condition of the Landed Proprietors under British rule.

No. IV. continues the subject of No. III., and proceeds to consider the case of the Non-proprietary Cultivating Classes.

No. V. contains the Domestic History of a Rajpoot Family, as affected by the proceedings of a Magistrate and Collector.

Nos. VI. to VIII. present a sketch of the duties of a Magistrate in the North-Western