

**THE NEILGHERRIES: INCLUDING AN
ACCOUNT OF THEIR TOPOGRAPHY,
CLIMATE, SOIL AND PRODUCTIONS;
AND OF THE EFFECTS OF THE CLIMATE
ON THE EUROPEAN CONSTITUTION**

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The Neilgherries: including an account of their topography, climate, soil and productions; and of the effects of the climate on the European constitution by R. Baikie & W. H. Smoult

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R. BAIKIE & W. H. SMOULT

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THE
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INCLUDING AN ACCOUNT OF THEIR
Topography, Climate, Soil and Productions;
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ON
THE EUROPEAN CONSTITUTION.

BY
R. BAIKIE, ESQ., M. D.
FORMERLY SUPERINTENDING MEDICAL OFFICER ON
THE NEILGHERRIES.

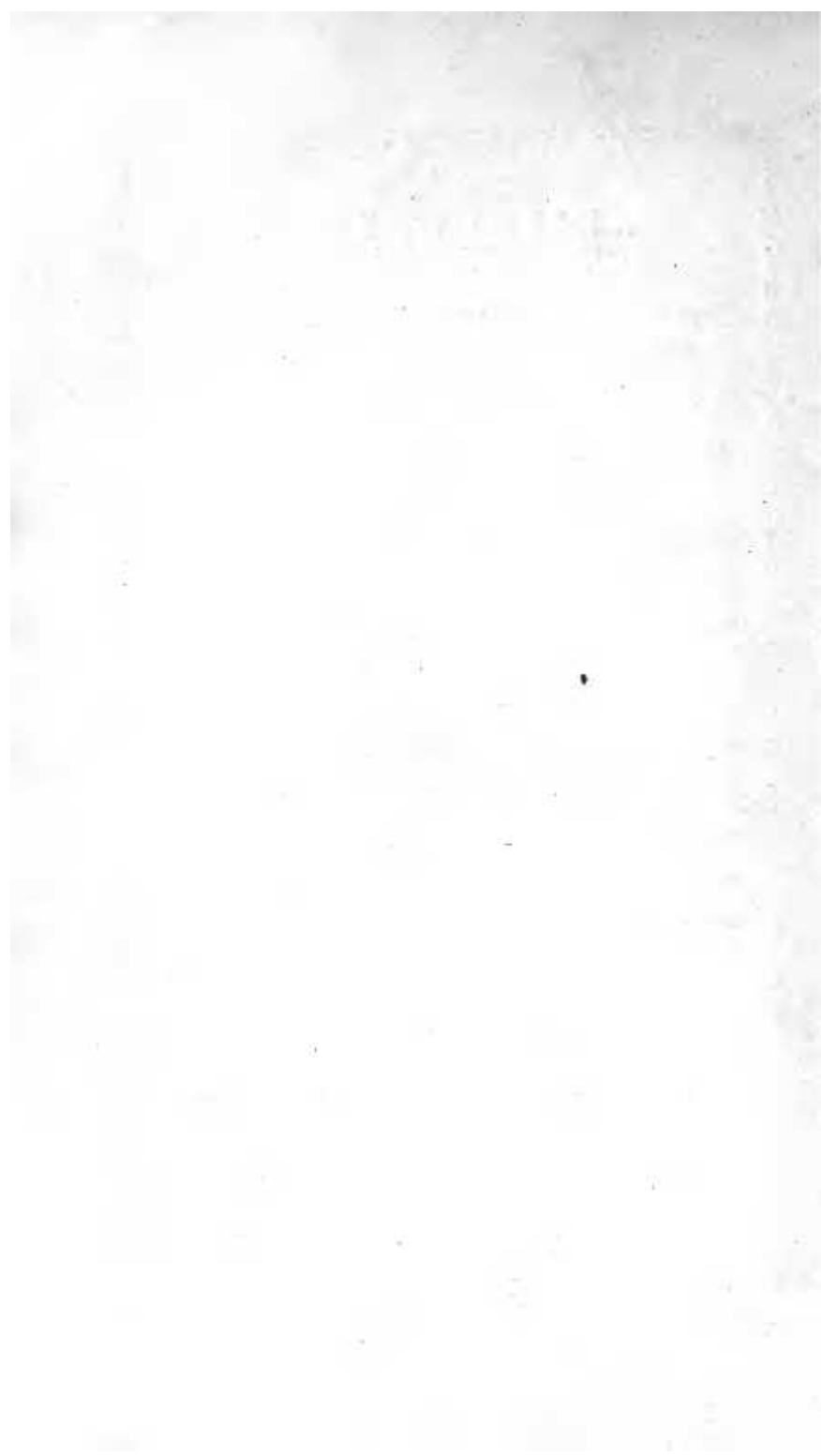
WITH MAPS; A PANORAMIC VIEW OF COTACAMUND; SKETCHES OF
COONOR, KOTERGHERRY, AND JACKATALLA; EXTRACTS FROM
OTHER WRITERS INCORPORATED; AND STATISTICS
TO THE PRESENT TIME;—COLLECTED BY
THE EDITOR ON A LATE VISIT.

EDITED BY
W. H. SMOULT, Esq.
AND DEDICATED BY PERMISSION TO
THE RIGHT HONORABLE
GEORGE FRANCIS ROBERT LORD HARRIS,
GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

SECOND EDITION.

Calcutta:

PRINTED BY J. THOMAS, AT THE BAPTIST MISSION PRESS.
1857.



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N5 B2
1857

TO
THE RIGHT HONORABLE
GEORGE FRANCIS ROBERT LORD HARRIS,
GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

MY LORD,

In publishing a second edition of Dr. Baikie's account of the Neilgherry Hills, the justly celebrated Sanatorium of the Presidency of Madras, I am highly honored by the permission to dedicate the volume to your Lordship; sensible, as I must be, that the work will derive additional value from the countenance of a Ruler, who has always taken the liveliest interest in promoting the advancement of a region which has bestowed the blessing of health, on numberless climate-stricken servants of the Government so beneficially administered by your Lordship.

I have the honor to be,

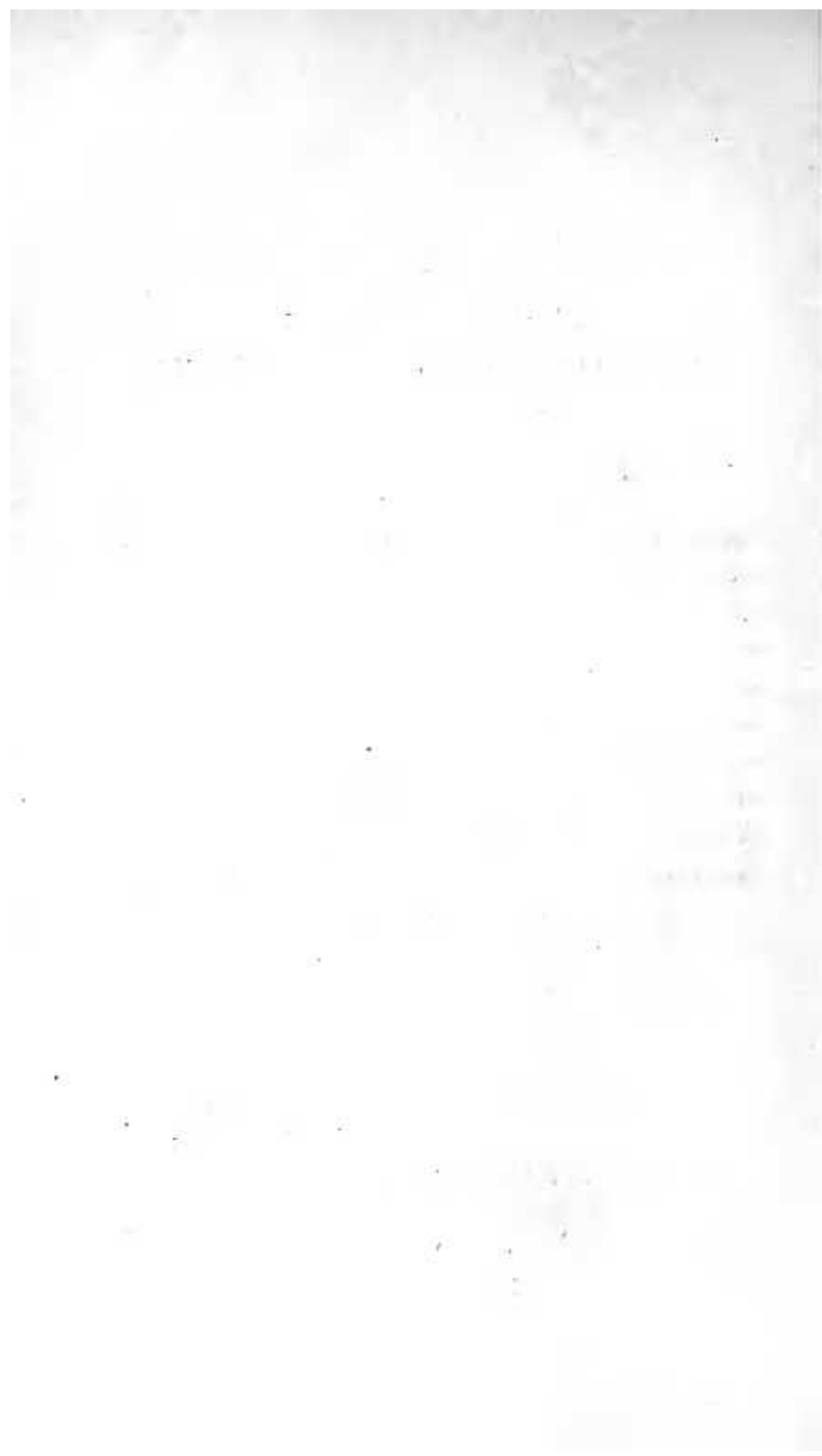
My Lord,

With the greatest respect,

Your Lordship's most obedient servant,

W. H. SMOULT.

Calcutta, 16th February, 1857.



PREFACE BY THE AUTHOR

TO THE FIRST EDITION.

THE object of the Author of the following pages has been, by a simple statement of facts, to attract attention to a circumstance of which, he has reason to believe, a great majority of the Indian public is not aware; namely, the existence of an elevated tract of country, with a climate completely European, situated within the heart of our own dominions in Southern India, and accessible from almost every part of the three presidencies. In pointing out the advantages to be derived from a judicious use of the climate of the Neilgherries,* both in the cure and prevention of Indian diseases, he has taken experience for his guide, resting nothing on theory, and enabling his readers to judge for themselves as to the justice of the conclusions he has drawn.

The author feels assured that he has nothing to fear from the criticism of a candid and enlightened public

* Properly Nilgiris, from the Hindee words Nil, (blue,) and Giri, (a mountain.) The usual effect of the atmosphere being to invest distant hills with a blue tint.

on the facts and opinions he has ventured to submit to them ; but he would entreat their indulgence for the many glaring deficiencies which they cannot fail to perceive in the style and arrangement* of this little treatise ; deficiencies, which want of leisure, from constant professional occupation, forbids his attempting to supply, even if his inexperience in the art of composition would permit of his doing so with judgment and success.

It only remains for him to offer his acknowledgments to several friends, who have afforded him their invaluable assistance in preparing this work for the press ; in particular to W. H. SMOULT, Esq, of the Supreme Court of Calcutta, who suggested the plan, and has kindly undertaken to furnish the Maps, Routes, and Drawings, and to superintend the printing and correction ; to Baron HUGEL, for his valuable paper on the Botanical Physiognomy of the Hills, inserted in the body of the work ; and to the Rev. Mr. SCHMID, for his copious catalogue of Plants in the Appendix.

Ootacamund, 17th October, 1833.

* The Editor has endeavoured to methodize the arrangement in the present volume.

PREFACE BY THE EDITOR

TO THE FIRST EDITION.

THE conflicting accounts which the Editor received from persons to whom he addressed himself for information, when he was projecting a visit from Madras to the Neilgherries, with respect to the difficulties of the approaches to them, and in regard to the accommodation afforded to visitors, and the number of servants and other necessaries requisite for a temporary residence at Ootacamund, suggested to him the idea of soliciting the author of the following sheets to compile an account of the Hills, and to embody in it statements in reference to the points in question, on the accuracy of which complete reliance might be placed.

That gentleman, he was satisfied, was the person best qualified, both from long experience and from being possessed of every species of information respecting the Hills, to draw up such an account of them as would be practically useful; and he feels assured that the work which, in compliance with his suggestion, has been produced, will not only prove a valuable guide to those who may resort to them in pursuit of health, but will be