

**INDIA IN THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY. BEING A
COLLECTION OF NARRATIVES OF VOYAGES
TO INDIA, IN THE CENTURY PRECEDING THE
PORTUGUESE DISCOVERY OF THE CAPE OF
GOOD HOPE; FROM LATIN,
PERSIAN, RUSSIAN AND ITALIAN SOURCES,
NOW FIRST TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH**

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India in the fifteenth century. Being a collection of Narratives of voyages to India, in the century preceding the portuguese discovery of the cape of good hope; from Latin, Persian, Russian and Italian sources, now first translated into english by R. H. Major

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R. H. MAJOR

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EDITED, WITH AN INTRODUCTION,

BY

R. H. MAJOR, Esq., F.S.A.

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EDITOR'S PREFACE.

THE present collective volume has been produced by the joint labours of three different persons, and hence, in a great measure, has arisen the delay which has taken place in its completion. In the first instance, the translation of the interesting manuscript of Nikitin, procured for the Society from Moscow, through the instrumentality of our president, Sir Roderick I. Murchison, was undertaken by the late estimable Count Wielhorsky, Secretary of the Russian Legation at the Court of St. James's, and by great good fortune was completed by him before his recall. The smallness of this document made it unfit to form a separate work; and it was thought that by bringing together a collection of voyages in the same century, previously untranslated into English, an interesting volume might be formed. Mr. Winter Jones, the

present Keeper of the Printed Books in the British Museum, was requested to edit such a volume, which he obligingly undertook to do, though with much hesitation, in consequence of the increasing pressure of his important duties in the Museum. After translating and annotating the voyage of Nicolò de' Conti and seeing it through the press, he felt compelled by the claims of his present responsible position to give up a task which he would otherwise gladly have completed, but which he could not continue with justice to the members of the Society or to himself. In the spring of the present year, the Honorary Secretary of the Society volunteered to complete what Mr. Jones had left undone, a task which, although laborious, has been performed under the advantage of not having in any way to interfere with the labours of his predecessor.

While thus called upon to refer to the contributors to this volume, the editor cannot deny himself the satisfaction of recording in this place the following exalted testimony to the generous conduct of his lamented friend, Count Wielhorsky, after his return to Russia. The following autograph letter