

**THE HISTORY OF THE SIKHS,
TOGETHER WITH A
CONCISE ACCOUNT OF THE
PUNJAUB AND CASHMERE**

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The History of the Sikhs, Together with a Concise Account of the Punjaub and Cashmere by
Anonymous

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THE HISTORY OF THE SIKHS,

TOGETHER WITH

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PUNJAUB AND CASHMERE;

ITS

TOPOGRAPHY, RIVERS, CLIMATE AND PRODUCTIONS, CUSTOMS, MANNERS
AND CHARACTER OF THE PEOPLE, COMMERCE, MANUFACTURES,
HISTORY AND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS, GOVERNMENT,
ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAWS, REVENUE,
EXTENT OF POPULATION, ETC. ETC. ETC.

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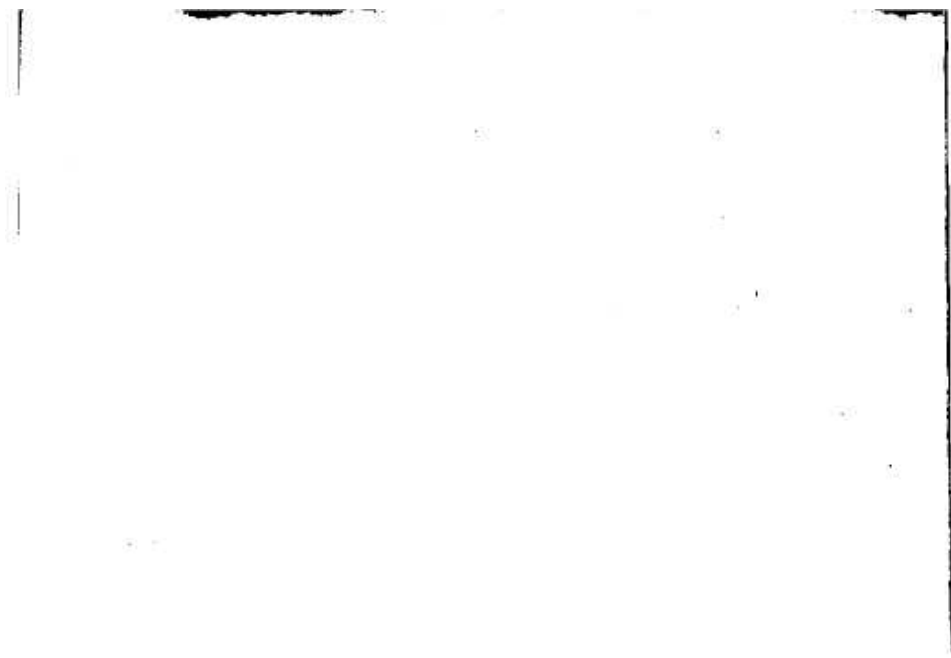


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THE HISTORY OF THE SIKHS.

CHAPTER I.

TOPOGRAPHY OF THE PUNJAUB.

The Province of Lahore—Puckely—Muzifferabad—Chuch—Attock—Hussain Abdaul—Rawil Pindée—Manlyala—Jelalpore—Angur—Doabeh Sindh Sagor—Doabeh Barry—Umritsir—Jallinder—Kish-tewar—Jamboe—Kangra—Nadone—Cooloo—Mundi, &c. &c.

THE extensive country to the north-west of India, known by the name of the Punjaub, derives its appellation from the Persian words,—*punj*, five, and *aub*, water, from the five rivers which flow through the territory. These rivers are, the Indus or Attock, the Jeylum, the Chenab, the Ravee, and the Sutledge, the first and last forming the geographical boundaries of a space extending from $29^{\circ} 15'$ to 34° north, long. $70^{\circ} 40'$ to 76° east. The political limits of the country, however, extend somewhat beyond the banks of the two principal rivers, and may be reckoned, including Peshawur and the countries west of the Indus, Iskardoh, Ladakh, and other hill states north, at 600 miles in length from east to west, and 350 miles in breadth from north to south. In the immediate north and

north-east of the territory lie the chains of mountains known as the Hindoo Koosh and the Himalaya range, the latter divided from the former by the extensive valley of the Indus.

The plain of the Punjaub, to use the words of Thornton, the Gazetteer, "is divided by its rivers into five extensive natural Sections, described by the native term *Doab*, signifying a great tongue of land, lying in the bifurcation above the confluence of two rivers." The rivers are all in a great measure navigable, not less than 1,960 miles of the five principal streams, with their four tributaries, Punjneed, Trinall, Beas and Epora being available for purposes of inland traffic. Irrigation to an almost unparalleled extent is likewise carried on without much assistance from artificial means the great plain being extremely level, or sloping so gradually from north-east to south-west that the highest elevation above the level of the sea does not exceed 16,000 feet, descending to about 200. In fact, the exceeding smoothness of the country has the effect of causing the rivers to frequently change their courses; not one of them runs within several miles of the great towns whose walls they washed twenty years ago. Scattered over the territory, but chiefly in the vicinity of the rivers, are numerous towns, fortresses, and villages. The principal towns are Lahore, (the capital and seat of Government,) Umrtsur, Vuzeerabad, Mozufferabad, Kashmir or Serinugger, and Peshawur. The fortresses are Umrtsur, formerly the depository of the royal treasury, a place of no particular strength; Rotus, on the high road from Lahore to Peshawur, strikingly situated upon an eminence, but now suffered to fall into decay; and the castle on the banks of the Attock, which commands the passage of the river. Most of the towns, however, are surrounded by a mud or brick wall of frail quality. Lahore itself is so defended, with the addition of a dry moat, which, on

emergency, could be filled with water from the neighbouring Ravee. But the mud walls would afford no protection against Artillery. They were originally constructed by the inhabitants as a sort of defence from the attacks of one another, and are only efficacious in resisting incursions or predatory visitations in times of civil commotion.—*Col. Steinbach.*

THE PROVINCE OF LAHORE.—(*Lahaur.*)—The province of Lahore is situated between the 30th and 34th degrees of north latitude. To the north it is bounded by Cashmere, and the course of the Indus; to the south by Delhi, Ajmeer, and Mooltan; on the east it has the mountains of Northern Hindostan; and on the west is separated by the Indus from Afghanistan. In length it may be estimated at 340 miles by 200, the average breadth. By Abul Fazel, in 1582, this province is described as follows:

“The soubah of Lahore is situated in the second climate. The length, from the river Sutleje, is 180 coss; the breadth from Bhember to Chowkundy, one of the dependencies of Satgurrah, measures 86 coss. On the east lies Sirhind; on the north Cashmere; on the south Bicanere and Ajmeer; Mooltan bounds it on the west. This soubah has six fine rivers issuing from the northern mountains, the Sutleje, the Beyah the Ravee, the Chinaub, the Jhylum or Behut, anciently the Bedusta, and the Sinde or Indus.

“This soubah is very populous, highly cultivated, and exceedingly healthy. The cultivated lands are chiefly supplied with water from wells. The winter is much severer here than in any other part of Hindostan, although considerably milder than in Persia or Tartary. Ice, brought from the northern mountains, is sold the whole year. The horses resemble Irakies, and are very fine. In some parts, by sifting and washing the sands of the rivers, they obtain gold, silver, copper, rowey, tin, brass, and lead.