

**LAYS OF IND: COMICAL,  
SATIRICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE  
POEMS ILLUSTRATIVE OF  
ENGLISH LIFE IN INDIA**

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Lays of Ind: Comical, Satirical and Descriptive Poems Illustrative of English Life in India by  
"Aliph Cheem"

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**"ALIPH CHEEM"**

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# LAYS OF IND

*COMICAL, SATIRICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE  
POEMS ILLUSTRATIVE OF ENGLISH LIFE IN INDIA*

BY  
"ALIPH CHEEM"

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Tenth Edition, Illustrated

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1901

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To

ANGLO-INDIAN FOLK  
WHO CAN RELISH A LITTLE JOKE

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED,  
IF HAPPY TO ROUSE A SMILE,  
OR AN IDLE HOUR BEGUILE,

THE MODEST TOME IS FATED,—  
ACCOMPLISHED WILL BE THE DREAM  
OF "YOURS TRULY,"

"Alfiph Cheem."

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## PREFACE

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THIS modest tome, kind Pub., was writ,  
From time to time, and bit by bit ;  
Some Lays appearing here and there,  
Where Editors could corners spare ;  
While others, bound into a book,  
Were published in Bombay—and took,  
At least, 'yours truly' thinks he may  
That much, of swagger guiltless, say ;  
For of his first attempt, no less  
Than three editions passed the press,  
And of the second, he is told,  
There's not a single vol. unsold.  
Since they were issued, several others  
Appeared in journals, like their brothers,  
And now the whole, all of a heap,  
Are offered to you—very cheap.  
Dear Pub., 'yours truly' hopes you'll laugh  
At what is merely meant for chaff ;  
And, being chaff, is not so vain  
As to attempt to pass for grain.

"ALIPH CHEEM."

BANGALORE,  
17th Sept., 1875.



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### THE NAUGHTY NAUTCH.

THE Reverend McPherson believed that a nautch  
Was a most diabolical sort of debauch ;  
He thought that that dance's voluptuous mazes  
Would turn a man's brain, and allure him to blazes !—  
That almond-eyed girls,  
Dressed in bangles and pearls,  
And other scant jims  
Disclosing their limbs,

B

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With movement suggestive  
And harmony festive,  
With fire in their eyes, and love on their lips,  
And passion in each of their elegant skips,  
As beauteous as angels, as wicked as devils,  
Performed at these highly indelicate revels.

One day this said verecund Mr. McPherson  
He chanced at a nautch to be present in person :  
A Rajah had all the cantonment invited  
To feast in his palace. The gardens were lighted  
With fairy-like sheen  
Of lamps, red and green,  
White, purple, and yellow,  
Some dazzling, some mellow ;  
There were flowers in mountains  
About all the fountains,  
And nice little tents  
For ladies and gents,  
With brushes and scents ;  
A pavilion of state  
All arranged for the feast,  
With service of plate  
Worth a kingdom at least ;  
A profusion of rare  
And exquisite fare,  
From rice and pillaos  
To truffles and grouse,  
Which Fortnum and Mason so nicely prepare ;  
There were crackers and bonbons, and rhymes for the fair,  
With every liquor we designate wine,  
From the stuff of the Cape to the nectar of Rhine ;