

ON INDIA

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On India by A. Macleod

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A. MACLEOD

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BY

MAJOR-GENERAL A. MACLEOD.



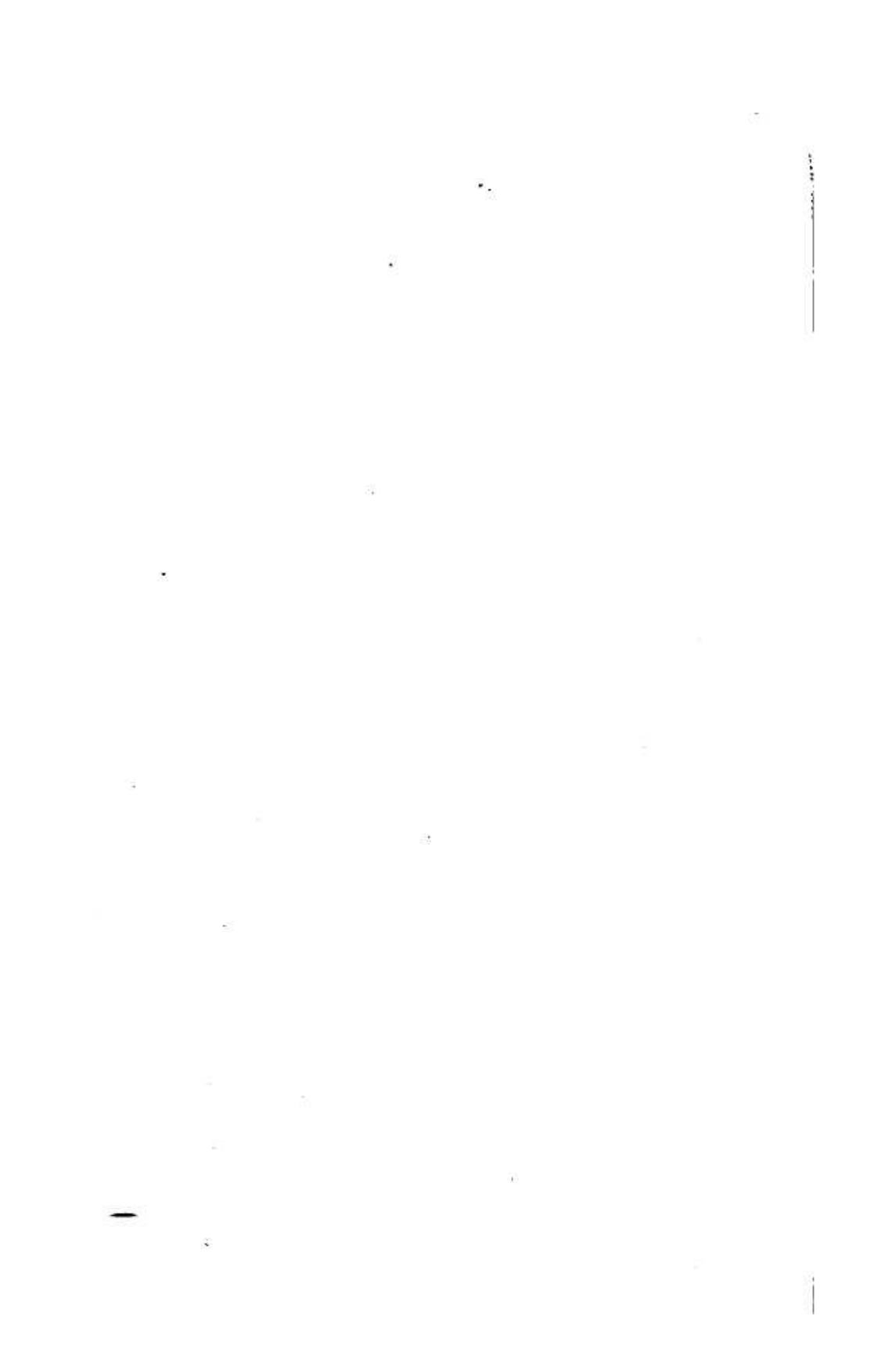
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I.

ON THE INDIAN MUTINY.

It is a well-known fact in the history of India, that there was current among the natives a superstitious prophecy, that, one hundred years from the battle of Plassy, British rule was to terminate in the East. As a matter of course, enlightened Britons looked upon this prophecy, as they do upon all prophecies of this nature, with such extreme contempt, that to mention it would be derogatory to the dignity of their character. In their legitimate assumption of this high tone of moral character, they forget or are apt to overlook two truths, namely, that superstition is a constitutional element of the human race wherever ignorance prevails, and that there is nothing too sacred for immolation at its dread shrines. A sad, fearful, and never-to-be-forgotten exemplification of these truths has been given us in the late Indian mutiny. And it is not alone that this mutiny shows how deep a hold superstition takes upon the ignorant mind, and how great barbarities infatuated human beings are capable of committing, but it also as strongly