THE TURKS IN INDIA; CRITICAL CHAPTERS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THAT COUNTRY BY THE CHUGHTAI, BABAR, AND HIS DESCENDANTS

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The Turks in India; critical chapters on the administration of that country by the Chughtai, Bábar, and his descendants by Henry George Keene

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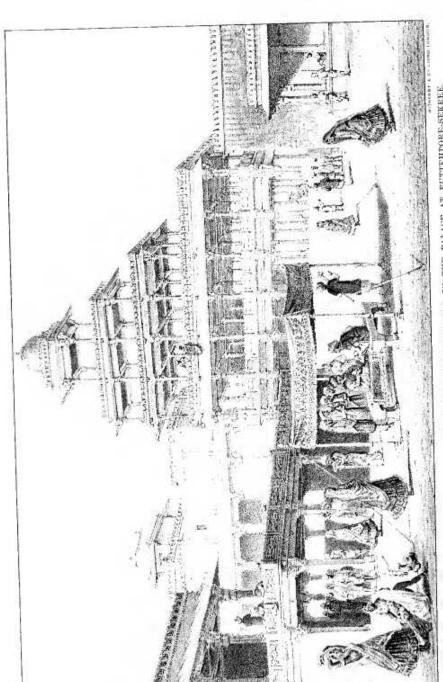
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HENRY GEORGE KEENE

THE TURKS IN INDIA; CRITICAL CHAPTERS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THAT COUNTRY BY THE CHUGHTAI, BABAR, AND HIS DESCENDANTS





ARBAR PLAYING AT PACHEESEE WITH WOMEN FOR COUNTERS, IN THE PALACE AT FUTTEHFORE-SPIREE. From the perinting by P. W. A. its Eideck, Erg., in the possession of the Rt. How. the Bart of Northbrook.

THE TURKS IN INDIA

CRITICAL CHAPTERS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF
THAT COUNTRY BY THE CHUGHTAI, BÁBAR,
AND HIS DESCENDANTS

BY

HENRY GEORGE KEENE M.R.A.S.

JUDGE OF AGRA

FELLOW OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA

AND

AUTHOR OF "THE MOGNUL EMPIRE"

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Dedicated

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SIDNEY OWEN, M.A.

IN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF HIS
VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS
TO OUR KNOWLEDGE
OF

INDIAN HISTORY

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THE object of the following pages is to show, in a series of monographs, the character, epochs, and incidents in the history of the Empire established in Hindustan by the Chughtai Tartars. These chapters cover the time from the invasion of Bábar to the death of Alamgir II., and the campaign of 1760-1. Au attempt has been made to show the state of the country under Mughal rule, and the reasons why, with many good qualities, the House of Taimur ultimately failed to form a durable dominion. The first article is devoted to a summary of the subject of the whole study. The second gives a brief account of the origin of the family, and the first foundation of their power south of the Himála Alps. The third displays the consolidation; the fourth and fifth exhibit the equilibrium; the sixth describes the beginnings of weakness. In the seventh and eighth are shown the hastening decomposition of the unwieldy and ill-governed Empire; while the account of the Campaign of Pánipat furnishes

matter for the ninth and last. The whole will replace

vi.

the first Book of the "Fall of the Mughal Empire" by the same author, and the rest of that work will serve to complete a popular statement of the History of Hindustan for the three centuries next preceding British rule.

EXPLANATION OF THE MAP.

The accompanying map is an attempt to show, approximately, the state of the Chughtai possessions in Hindustan and the Deccan, when that Empire was in its firmest and most compact condition, say, towards the end of the first half of the seventeenth century, when the principal European travellers (who form our best authorities) were in the country. Candahar was lost, all claims to Balkh and Bokhara were practically abandoned; but Aurangabad, Bijapur, Bidar, and Haidrabad were being rendered tributary towards the latter part, while still nominally under other rulers, and the usurpations of the Mahrattas had not yet begun to trouble the Western Deccan.

Originally the Empire, as described by Abul Fuzl in the 40th year of Akbar, consisted of twelve *subahs*, besides later-acquired territory, which had not, at that time, been completely organised with the Imperial Cosmos. In later times, the number of these provinces averaged twenty; for, though there are as many as twenty-seven named in some lists, yet they are either