

**THE JUVENILE
CRIMINAL IN
SOUTHERN INDIA**

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The juvenile criminal in Southern India by J. W. Coombes

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J. W. COOMBES

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PLATE I.



MEKALA POLIGADU. This new admission is shown in the illustration, escorted to the school by two stalwart guardians of the peace, with fixed bayonets. He belongs to a Pamulavudu, or criminal class, which is a sect of the Jogi caste. The boy is fifteen years of age, with both parents living, (the father being blind), and earned his livelihood by begging. He is an old offender, with two previous convictions. He was sent to the school for theft of a silver necklace, worth Rs. 6, from the neck of a girl aged six years. He did this on market day, and was instigated to it by another associate.

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IN
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BY
J. W. COOMBES.



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PREFACE.

THE late Colonel Bertie Hobart, in one of his letters to my brother, remarked that "few people of those who have not been in India know what civilising institutions like this school (referring to the Chingleput Reformatory) are undertaken by Government." I am afraid that few critics of Government, even *in* India, are aware of the efforts which are being made to reclaim the juvenile offender and make him a good citizen.

The object of this little book, therefore, is threefold:—(1) To show what Government is doing for the country in this direction, (2) to put on record a few notes gathered in the course of my experience with juvenile criminals, which may be of use to those engaged in the study of juvenile criminality, and (3) to furnish information for a continuity of policy to my successors in office, especially during a transitive period, which is often a period of mischief and unrest.

I am indebted to Mr. K. Rangachari, M.A., for the brief notes on the Tamil and Telugu castes in Chapters VIII and IX.

The half-tone blocks were executed by W. H. Smith & Son, of Fetter Lane, London.

July, 1908.



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