

# **RULERS OF INDIA. EARL CANNING**

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Rulers of India. Earl Canning by Sir H. S. Cunningham & Sir William Wilson Hunter

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**SIR H. S. CUNNINGHAM & SIR WILLIAM WILSON HUNTER**

**RULERS OF INDIA.  
EARL CANNING**



# Rulers of India

EDITED BY

SIR WILLIAM WILSON HUNTER, K.C.S.I.

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EARL CANNING

RULERS OF INDIA

3496

Earl Canning

By Sir H. S. <sup>Henry Stewart</sup> CUNNINGHAM, K.C.L.E.

*Tu ne cede malis*

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## PREFACE

I HAVE to acknowledge my obligations, in the preparation of the following sketch, to the late Earl Granville, who was good enough to give me some notes of his recollections of Lord Canning's early life, and to criticise the biographical portion of the work : to Mr. Lewin Bowring, C.S.I., who kindly placed at my disposal the Diary which he kept while he was Private Secretary to Lord Canning; to General Charles Stuart, who allowed me the use of his Journal kept during his term of office as Military Secretary : and to Lady Lawrence for the perusal of an interesting correspondence between Lord Canning and Lord Lawrence. The elaborate history of the Indian Mutiny, begun by Sir John Kaye, and completed by Colonel Malleson, and the latter author's shorter and more recent work on the same subject, are authorities which I have frequently consulted and to which I am largely indebted.

H. S. C.

1-9-35

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### NOTE

The orthography of proper names follows the system adopted by the Indian Government for the *Imperial Gazetteer of India*. That system, while adhering to the popular spelling of very well-known places, such as Punjab, Lucknow, &c., employs in all other cases the vowels with the following uniform sounds:—

a, as in woman: á, in father: i, as in police: í, as in intrigue: o, as in cold: u, as in bull: ú, as in sure: e, as in grey.

# EARL CANNING

## FIRST VICEROY OF BRITISH INDIA



### CHAPTER I

#### THE ARGUMENT

INDIA has added a thrilling chapter to the Englishman's national romance—a chapter which more, perhaps, than any other in our annals, abounds in interest and pathos—in dark, tragic scenes, strange episodes—the success of splendid daring—the supremacy of the constant mind over adverse fate—the determined mood which gains reinforcement from hope and consolation from despair. It has been the arena in which the qualities which Englishmen most prize in themselves and their fellow-countrymen have been exhibited on a grand scale—the iron will—the unwavering purpose—the practical aptitude for the management of human affairs—long-enduring fortitude—devotion to duty—the generous contagion of self-sacrifice, when courage glows into heroism and the commonplace becomes sublime.

With no original design which looked beyond a mercantile profit, the warding off of imminent danger, or the coercion of a troublesome rival, the English found themselves, after a century of unexampled

vicissitudes,—the import of which they were unable, at the time, to comprehend,—the paramount power among the unstable governments and shattered nationalities of Hindustán.

Destiny had driven them—much against their will—to discard their counting-houses and ledgers for an Imperial task. Dupleix's bold conception of employing one set of natives to subjugate another had been employed to good effect. Again and again Indian troops, drilled and led by Englishmen, had triumphed over an Indian foe. One great State after another had succumbed, and—effete, prostrate, moribund—had been converted into component parts of a living organisation. The robber communities—'jackals tearing at the carcase of the Mughal Empire'—had been tamed into order or scared to flight. There had been fierce struggles in which Maráthás or Sikhs had tested the prowess of the Western conquerors to the utmost—dark hours in which it had seemed doubtful whether those Western conquerors were destined to hold their own. But their ascendancy was now complete. Dalhousie's masterful will and firm hand had crushed the last serious effort of the fiercest of the races who had ventured to contest it. The Sikhs, after a crushing defeat at Gujarát, had bent in submission to the fated conqueror, and their Afghán allies had fled cowering through the Kháibar Pass. From the Himálaya to Cape Comorin no power questioned the supremacy of the English Ráj.

On such a theatre it was inevitable that the idiosyn-