

**RULES OF INDIA. HAIDAR ALÍ
AND TIPÚ SULTÁN AND
THE STRUGGLE WITH THE
MUSALMÁN POWERS OF THE
SOUTH**

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Rules of India. Haidar Ali and Tipú Sultán and the Struggle with the Musalmán Powers of the South by Lewin B. Bowring

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LEWIN B. BOWRING

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POWERS OF THE SOUTH**

Rulers of India

EDITED BY

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Haidar Ali and Tipú Sultán

*AND THE STRUGGLE WITH THE MUSALMÁN
POWERS OF THE SOUTH*

By LEWIN B. BOWRING, C.S.I.

FORMERLY CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF MYSORE

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PREFACE

THE following sketch of the Musalmán usurpation in Mysore is an attempt to present in a popular form the career of one of the most remarkable personages who have played their parts on the stage of Indian history, together with that of his equally remarkable son—the first distinguished by the energy, enterprise, and daring which enabled him to seize a throne, and the second by his bigotry, his hostility to the English, and the fatuous obstinacy which cost him his crown and his life.

The materials for such a memoir, although often contradictory, according to the source whence they are derived, are sufficiently copious for the greater part of the narrative. The conflicting views of English, French, and native authorities regarding Haidar Ali and his son make it difficult to form an absolutely correct estimate of their career, while the limited space at his disposal precludes the writer from doing full justice to the course of events referred to in the narrative. It was a period, however, of vital importance to the future supremacy of the British in India,

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and an attempt has therefore been made to represent as accurately as possible the vicissitudes of the Mysore kingdom during the thirty-eight years of the usurpation by Haidar Alí and Tipú Sultán. The sketch is confined to this period, that is, from the time when Haidar Alí first brought himself prominently to notice, down to the memorable siege of Seringapatam, which ended for ever his short-lived dynasty. Although incidentally alluded to, the momentous struggle between the English and the French for supremacy in Southern India does not come within the scope of the memoir, while it has been fully dealt with in the previous volume of this Series on 'Dupleix.'

The writer would impress upon the reader that, although the narrative is mainly taken up with a long course of strife and conquests, consequent upon the disintegration of the Mughal empire, it would be unjust to impute to the people of Mysore an innate love for war, or a sanguinary disposition. On the contrary, they are an amiable race, with kindly instincts, admirable as cultivators, and possessing an ancient and valuable literature, which raised them high in the scale of civilization long before the advent of Islám. Of the professors of that faith he may also add that nowhere can be found a better type of true refinement and courtesy than the dignified and hospitable Musalmán gentleman.

L. B. B.

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