

HISTORY OF THE FORTRESS OF GWALIOR

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History of the Fortress of Gwalior by Shrimant Balwant Row Bhayasaheb

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SHRIMANT BALWANT ROW BHAYASAHEB

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OF GWALIOR**

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GWALIOR

BY

SHRIMANT BALWANT ROW BHAYASAHEB,
SCINDIA.



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PREFACE.

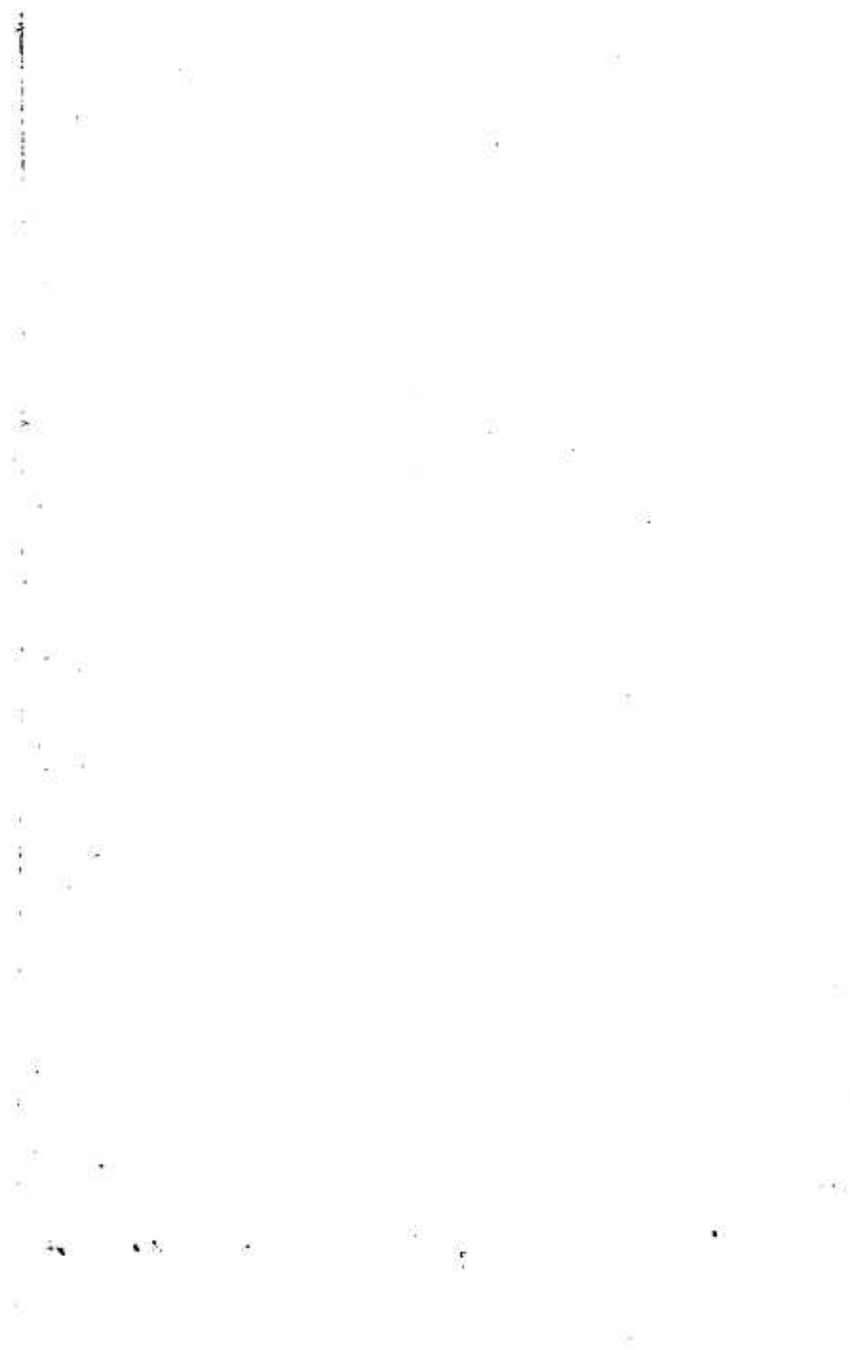
THE FORT of GWALIOR being one of the most renowned and time-honored Fortresses in India, and possessing some rare specimens of Indian architecture, people come to see it from long distances. Since the connection of the Scindia State Railway with the Indian Midland Railway, the number of visitors is yearly increasing. The want of a true history of this noble structure, which has solemnly watched the rise, decline and fall of hundreds of Rajas, Maharajas, and Kings, and a true illustration of the old monuments raised at different times being frequently felt, I venture to publish this translation of a Small Persian Manuscript named "Gwalior Nama," up to General Popham's time, for the benefit of the Public.

B. S.

Lashkar, October 1891.

CONTENTS.

THE FORTRESS OF GWALIOR—	PAGE
The Suraj Kund.....	3
Suraj-Pal, the Builder	5
Early History of the State	7
The Pal Dynasty	9 and 11
Ram Deva Prabhar.....	13
First Capture of the Fortress	15
A New Governor from Delhi	17
acquired by the Tanwar Rajputs.....	19
taken by Stratagem	21
in the hands of Raja Maun	23
The Goojri Mahal	25
captured by Humayun	27
visited by Mahomed Ghose	29
The Humayun Munzar	31
in Charge of Soor Bal	33
The Jahangeer Munzar	35
its Principal Buildings	37
besieged by the Mahrattas	39
surrendered to Rana Bhimsingh	41
in the hands of the Mahrattas	43
Defeat of the Deccanees	45
retaken by the English	47—49
during the Mutiny	51
The Mutineers in Gwalior	53
restored to Maharaja Scindia.....	55, 56





THE FORTRESS OF GWALIOR.

THE Fortress of Gwalior stands on an eminence in the midst of an almost arid and stony plain. It stretches some two miles in length, and has a height of from $\overline{274}$ to $\overline{300}$ feet, with a breadth varying from 600 to 2,800 feet. Its origin, like that of the Cyclopean walls in ancient Greece, is shrouded in mystery. Later researches, made subsequent to the downfall of the Moghal dynasty and the advent of the British in India, connect the foundation of this stupendous structure in the third century after Christ (275 A.D.) with a memorable incident in the life of a Kutchwaha Thakur named Suraj Sen, who, from originally being the owner of a single village called Sehonja, lying at a distance of some 12 miles towards the east from the Fort, suddenly became the progenitor of a Royal race well-known in the annals of Gwalior.

Gwalior Fortress is between 300 & 400 ft. h

Afflicted with leprosy for a period of two years, the Thakur happened, while on a hunting excursion, to pass by the site on which stands the now famous Fortress. Being faint with thirst and fatigue, and losing sight of the deer he had chased, the Thakur stopped short to find if he could anyhow procure for himself a drink of water. There was nothing all around but dreary wilderness: solitary rocks standing in all the dismal solemnity of rugged loneliness, and wild flowers of spontaneous growth to be met with here and there, wasting their fragrance on the desert air. No human being was to be seen, nor any vestige of human habitation. Suddenly, to his agreeable surprise, the thirst-stricken Rajput espied a Jogee, or Hindu ascetic, standing at a little distance, who, in response to a request made to him, pointed out a spring under a tree hard by, and handing over to the applicant for water a piece of cloth or a large coarse handkerchief generally used by the Hindu Fakirs, desired him at the same time to fetch in it some of the contents