

WINTER DAYS IN INDIA AND ELSEWHERE

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Winter Days in India and Elsewhere by William George Black

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WILLIAM GEORGE BLACK

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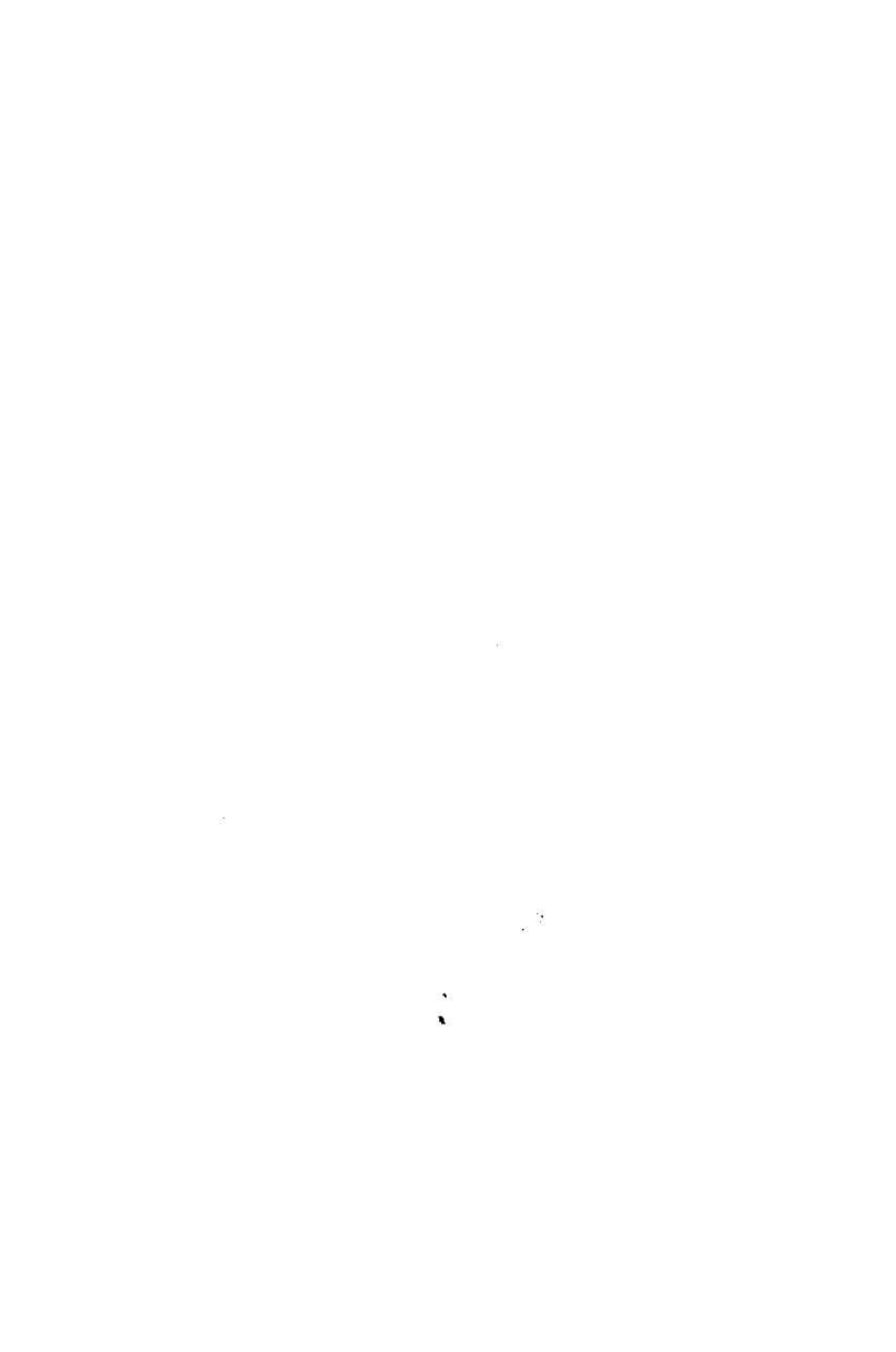
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NOTE

CHAPTERS I. to III. and V. to XI. appeared as Letters to the *Glasgow Herald*, and I have to thank the Editor for permission to reprint them. Chapter IV. is a summary from the Journal-Letters we sent home. Chapter XII. on Missions in India was written after my return and has not hitherto been printed in its present form. It formed the basis of addresses delivered to the Aberdeen Elders' Association on 21st October, 1907, and the Glasgow Elders' Association on 17th February, 1908.

W. G. B.

RAMOYLE, DOWANHILL GARDENS,
GLASGOW, *May*, 1908.



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CHAPTER I

WINTER DAYS IN INDIA

Mount Abu, Rajputana, Dec. 5, 1906.

UNDOUBTEDLY if dirigible balloons become possible the ideal plan of travel for the luxurious tourist would be that his air-vessel should meet him somewhere in the Arabian Sea, and that from the deck of his P. and O. he should be whirled to this delightful mountain. He would avoid the very marked inconveniences of landing at Bombay, and the sweltering heat of that beautiful but trying city. Bombay lies like an Indian Venice in and on the sea, but the temperature is oppressively hot and moist to the stranger, whose slightest exertion is attended by profuse perspiration. The conditions are mitigated by punkabs and electric fans, with the result that you are in an incessant draught, and "stranger's cold" is (though in a different sense) quite as common as old travellers said it was in St. Kilda. In St. Kilda the natives suffered