

**LETTERS ON THE CLIMATE,  
INHABITANTS, PRODUCTIONS,  
&C. &C. OF THE NEILGHERRIES,  
OR BLUE MOUNTAINS OF  
COIMBATOOR, SOUTH INDIA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649631452

Letters on the Climate, Inhabitants, Productions, &c. &c. of the Neilgherries, or Blue Mountains of Coimbatoor, South India by James Hough

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**JAMES HOUGH**

**LETTERS ON THE CLIMATE,  
INHABITANTS, PRODUCTIONS,  
&C. &C. OF THE NEILGHERRIES,  
OR BLUE MOUNTAINS OF  
COIMBATOUR, SOUTH INDIA**



**LETTERS**

**ON THE**

**CLIMATE, INHABITANTS, PRODUCTIONS, &c. &c.**

**OF THE**

**NEILGHERRIES,**

**OR BLUE MOUNTAINS OF COIMBATOOR,**

**SOUTH INDIA.**

----- 2

**BY JAMES HOUGH,**  
**OF MADRAS.**

-----  
**LONDON :**

**JOHN HATCHARD & SON 187, PICCADILLY.**

**1829.**

LONDON:  
ROBTSON AND PALMER, PRINTERS, SAVOY-STREET, STAND.

## P R E F A C E.

---

THE Author's object in writing the following pages is so fully explained in the first letter, that it is unnecessary to detain the reader with a repetition of the statement he has there given. They are now republished at the request of several friends, who wished them to appear in a more permanent form than that of communications in a newspaper of Bengal.

To those who were led two years ago to expect the present publication, an apology ought, perhaps, to be offered for the delay: but every clergyman and parent will readily conclude, that

more obvious duties, and more important avocations, have demanded the Author's attention. Indeed he has not been without scruples whether it were quite compatible with his professional and domestic duties to bestow upon the work that time which it has unavoidably occupied: but if his purpose be answered, if his "Letters" shall assist to induce the Government of India to patronize the Neilgherries as a retreat for invalids, and persuade any of his countrymen to seek the benefit which he has derived from a residence in that salubrious climate, he will not regret the time and attention bestowed on the work.



## LETTERS, &c.

---

### LETTER I.

*To the Editor of the Bengal Hurkaru.*

SIR,

It is quite unnecessary to remind yourself, or your readers, of the sad experience too many of our countrymen have had of the baneful influence of an Indian climate on the European constitution. From this cause, many valuable public officers have been compelled prematurely to retire from a service in which all their temporal hopes were centred, and that at the very period when their opening prospects were beginning to reward their assiduity in the different situations which they had successively filled. When thus rendered incapable of performing their duties, suf-

fering moreover severely from disease, and, above all, depressed in their spirits by the apprehension, that all their rising expectations must be disappointed if compelled to retire from the service; what an indescribable gratification would it have been to them to know, that within the territories of British India there existed a region singularly salubrious, romantic, and beautiful, whither they might with safety, and with so little difficulty, retire to recruit their health and vigour. They would have hailed such a discovery as one of the most valuable boons which a gracious Providence could bestow; yet would it have appeared so far to exceed the limits of probability, that, most likely, they would have hesitated, for some time, to credit all report on the subject. When, however, a body of concurring evidence had compelled their incredulity to yield, they would doubtless have hastened to avail themselves of the anxiously desired blessing.

India, alas! still contains many persons in the situation above described; but it is now in their power to enjoy the advantages for which so many have sighed in vain. The climate of the Neilgherries, for salubrity, uniformity of

temperature, and other excellent properties, is, perhaps, unparalleled. These mountains are situate between one and two hundred miles from the opposite coasts of Coromandel and Malabar, in 11° N. latitude, and were first visited by Europeans upwards of seven years ago.

In January 1819, several gentlemen, then residing at Coimbatoor, made an excursion on the Neilgherries, and their account of the tour appeared shortly after in one of the Madras journals. They spoke in raptures of the appearance of the country, but especially of the climate, which they described as invigorating in an extraordinary manner. Its temperature they stated to be 30° lower than that of the plain; and gave, at the same time, their observations on the range of the thermometer, which fully corroborated their statements. The place being quite unknown, as well to Europeans as to the natives at a distance, this account failed to attract much public attention.

In the month of May, of the above-mentioned year, several of the same tourists, accompanied by the late Monsieur Leschnault de la Tour, (eminent for his skill in Natural History, and employed in India to make researches in that