

**A SPECIMEN OF THE CIVIL AND MILITARY
INSTITUTES OF TIMOUR, OR TAMERLANE:
A WORK WRITTEN ORIGINALLY BY THAT
CELEBRATED CONQUEROR IN THE
MOGUL LANGUAGE, AND SINCE
TRANSLATED INTO PERSIAN**

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A specimen of the civil and military institutes of Timour, or Tamerlane: a work written originally by that celebrated Conqueror in the mogul language, and since translated into Persian by Joseph White

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JOSEPH WHITE

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S P E C I M E N
OF THE
CIVIL AND MILITARY INSTITUTES
OF
TIMOUR, OR TAMERLANE:

A Work written originally by that celebrated Con-
queror in the MOGUL Language,

AND SINCE TRANSLATED INTO PERSIAN.

Now first rendered from the PERSIAN into ENGLISH, from a MS. in the
Possession of WILLIAM HUNTER, M. D. F. R. S. PHYSICIAN EX-
TRAORDINARY to the QUEEN.

WITH OTHER PIECES.

Timur, the Great

BY JOSEPH WHITE, B. D.

FELLOW of WADHAM COLLEGE, LAUDIAN PROFESSOR of ARABIC, One of His
MAJESTY'S PREACHERS at WHITEHALL, and EDITOR and TRANSLATOR of the
SYRIAC PHILOXENIAN VERSION of the GOSPELS.

O X F O R D :

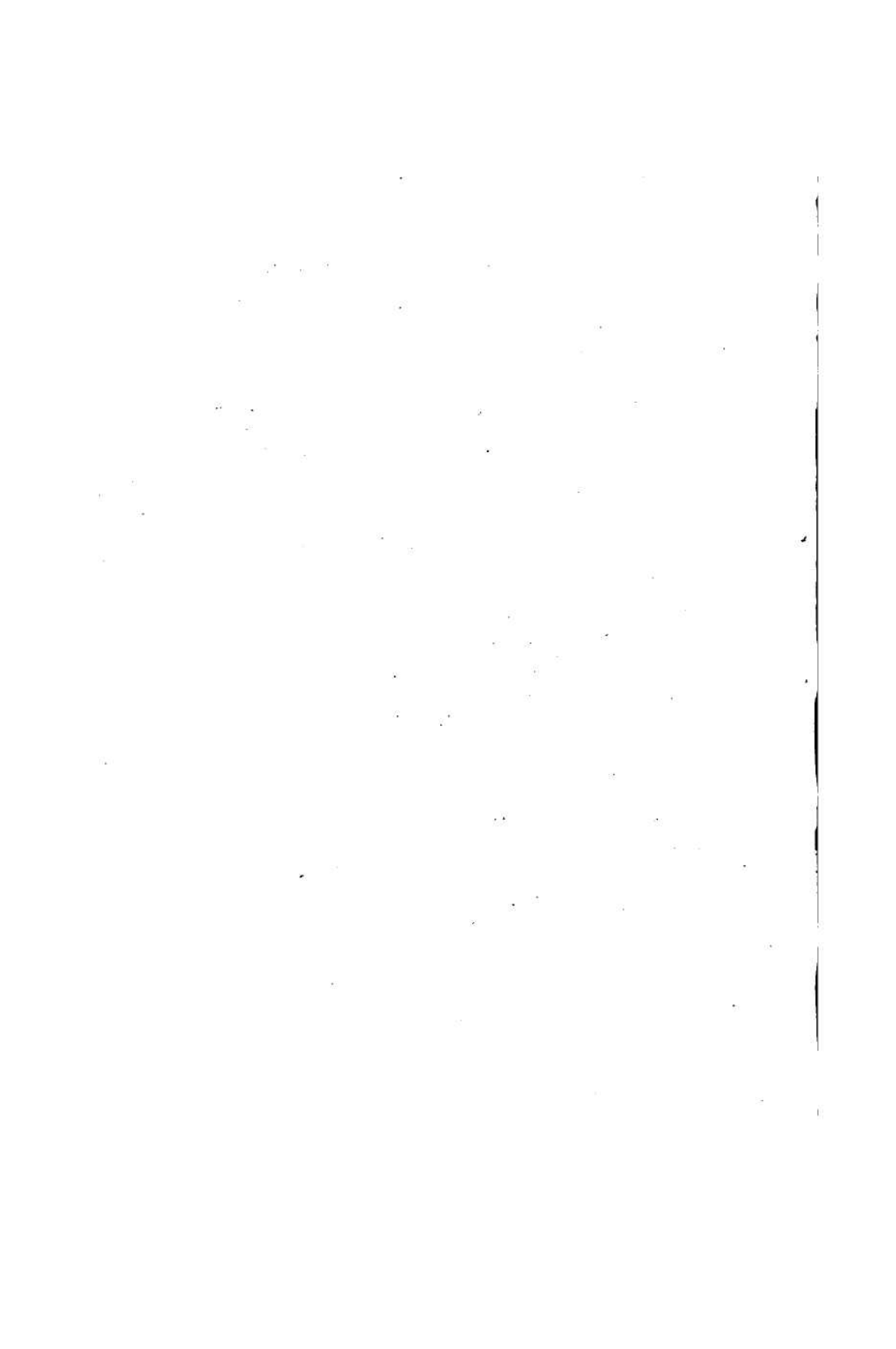
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TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
The VISCOUNT STORMONT,
THE FRIEND OF LITERATURE,
AND THE ENCOURAGER OF EVERY ATTEMPT
TO DIFFUSE ITS STUDIES AND TO SUPPORT ITS CREDIT,
WHO, AFTER ADORNING THE CHARACTER OF HIS NATION
IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES,
BY THE DISPLAY
OF ELEGANT KNOWLEDGE AND A REFINED FANCY,
IS HAPPILY CALLED TO ASSIST ITS COUNCILS AT HOME,
BY THE SUGGESTIONS
OF A MATURE EXPERIENCE AND A SINCERE PATRIOTISM,
THIS PROSPECTUS
OF AN INTENDED TRANSLATION
OF THE INSTITUTES OF TIMOUR
IS PRESENTED,
WITH THE MOST PROFOUND SENTIMENTS OF RESPECT,
BY HIS LORDSHIP'S DEVOTED SERVANT,

J. WHITE.



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S. 191

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P R E F A C E.

THE Language of Persia is copious in its vocabulary, regular and elegant in its formation, curious and interesting in the subjects of its Compositions, and always abounding in the characteristic beauties of the Eastern Idiom. This language and the literature of Persia were not left behind at the introduction of Oriental Learning into Europe; and they have since insinuated themselves into our libraries in company with, and under the sanction of, the sister Dialect of Arabia. Whether the larger portion of curious, useful, and interesting information be contained in the Arabic, or Persian authors, I shall not here venture to determine. Yet I will not scruple to assert, that much elegant amusement, and what is of more importance, much valuable knowledge, and such as the Public would receive with avidity, remains buried in the untranslated Manuscripts of the latter of these languages.

THE Persian Poetry possesses a native Genius, and an elegance of Fancy peculiar to itself. It always produces the *beautiful*, and is not unsuccessful when it aims at the *sublime*: of which the Heroic Composition of *Firdousi* is a shining instance. This extraordinary work is stiled *Shah Naumb*, or the History

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of Kings, and consists of sixty thousand Distichs. It is written with the utmost purity of the Persian language; and such is the elegance, energy, and spirit, of this beautiful Poem, that if it may not be ranked with the Compositions of Homer, of Virgil, and of Milton, it is still superior to the Works of any other Heroic Poet of any age, or country whatever. This writer, however, claims no precedence of the moral *Saadi* in elegance and purity of language. The Works of this Poet are comprized in sixteen books, making one large volume in *folio*, and are universally admired throughout the East. Two only of these excellent Compositions, the *Bosetaun* and the *Gulshahn*, are known to Europeans; and, excepting a beautiful MS. containing the whole of his Works, now in the possession of WILLIAM DAVY, Esq; (of Gloucester) I believe the remaining books are not to be found in Europe. Among the celebrated Poetical Compositions of the Persians, may also be numbered the works of *Kbaukauni*, *Jaumi* *, *Arrusi*, *Hausiz*, and *Niz-zaumi*. There are many others not inferlor to the preceding; yet whatever be the acknowledged merits of these Persian Poets, they are fully equalled by those of the Persian Historians; whose works in point of Authenticity may vie with the most admired narratives of Western History; and which, if translated into the languages of Europe, would open *new* sources of Information, and probably remove some obstructions from the *old*.

It is further to be observed, that in the Persian there are to be found many valuable Translations from the *Tartarian*, and other Oriental languages, highly worthy the attention of the Learned in Europe. The following Specimen, if I am not misled by the prejudices of a Translator, will tend to establish the above assertion. The inestimable work, from which it is taken, has not hitherto made its appearance in an European

* See a short Specimen of this Poet at the conclusion of the Specimen of the *Infinitives*.

drefs. The illustrious name of TIMOUR (or TAMERLANE) is well known to the inhabitants of Europe. The History of his extraordinary actions has employed the pens of many celebrated Oriental writers; and the production of one of them * has been translated into the French language: but the History of Timour, as written by himself, is still unknown to the inhabitants of the West. To this History the Royal Author added a Code of Institutes; a copy of which, and, I believe, the only one in Europe, is now in the possession of Dr. HUNTER, Physician extraordinary to the QUEEN; who, in granting me the perusal of it at Oxford, has given one more proof of that ardent love for the interest of Letters, which He has displayed in many more important instances, by the unremitting studies of His whole life, and by the munificent application of an ample fortune.

It would be an act of injustice to the Work not to mention, that the Specimen here exhibited, begins with the first page, and ends at the seventh, without omission, addition, or alteration; and is by no means selected with any disingenuous design of impressing the Reader with a more favourable idea, than what its whole contexture will support. I think I may venture to affirm, that nothing is wanting to render it the object of admiration to the curious and the learned, but the positive conviction of its authenticity; for the defence of which, I shall subjoin a Letter I have lately received from my worthy Friend, Mr. DAVY. His perfect knowledge of the Language, intimacy with Oriental authors, and former acquaintance with many of the Learned in Hindostan, render him a very competent judge of the subject; and the arguments which he has adduced will, I presume, be considered as highly satisfactory by the European Critic. I shall conclude with observing, that the Version is strictly literal; and that it is proposed to finish the whole Translation hereafter, if the present Specimen should meet with approbation.

Wadham Coll. Nov. 16. 1779.

J. W.

* Ali Yezudi.