

**A PRACTICAL HINDÚSTĀNĪ  
GRAMMAR; CONTAINING THE  
ACCIDENCE IN ROMAN TYPE, A  
CHAPTER ON THE USE OF ARABIC  
WORDS, AND A FULL SYNTAX**

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A Practical Hindústání Grammar; Containing the Accidence in Roman Type, a Chapter on the Use of Arabic Words, and a Full Syntax by Monier Williams & Cotton Mather

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**HINDÚSTÁNÍ GRAMMAR;**

CONTAINING

THE ACCIDENCE IN ROMAN TYPE,

A CHAPTER ON THE USE OF ARABIC WORDS,

AND

A FULL SYNTAX,

BY

**MONIER WILLIAMS, M.A.,**

OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, OXFORD; DOBSON PROFESSOR OF BANERJEE, ETC.

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ALSO,

**HINDÚSTÁNÍ SELECTIONS**

IN THE PERSIAN CHARACTER,

WITH A VOCABULARY AND DIALOGUES,

BY

**COTTON MATHER,**

FORMERLY ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF HINDÚSTÁNÍ AT ADDISCOMBE COLLEGE; NOW  
SECOND HINDÚSTÁNÍ MASTER AT THE ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY, WOOLWICH.

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## ADVERTISEMENT.

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IN PUTTING FORTH a new edition of the 'Practical Hindústání Grammar,' I think it right to state that no material alterations have been made in the work. Its use during more than five years in the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, and the fact that for some time past the Civil Service Commissioners have recommended it to the selected candidates for the Indian Civil Service, sufficiently attest that the plan and matter of the following pages commend themselves to the judgment of those scholars whose approval alone could have made another edition necessary. But although the general arrangement and structure remain the same, a few errors have been corrected, which, it is hoped, will enhance the value of the book and lead to an extension of its usefulness.

M. W.

OXFORD: *September* 1868.

## P R E F A C E.

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URDŪ or Hindústání is the mixed and composite dialect which has resulted from the fusion of Hindí, the idiom of the Hindús, with the Persian and Arabic of the Musalmán invaders. It is not only the regular spoken language of Delhi, Lucknow, and at least fifty millions of persons in Central India, the North West Provinces and the Punjáb, but is also the common medium of communication between Musalmáns throughout all India. In fact, although properly the language of the North West, it passes current (like French in Europe) throughout Bombay, Madras, and Calcutta. It is, therefore, the best general dialect which can be learnt by persons who, about to proceed to a vast continent, are ignorant of the particular locality for which they may be destined.

The following pages are intended to make the acquisition of this language easy to all. In many respects, especially in the department of Verbs and Syntax, the present Grammar is more full than any that has yet been written; but the beginner, who may feel himself embarrassed by the redundance of matter, may confine himself to the large type.



The distinctive feature of the book is the employment of English letters to express Hindústání words, at least, in the grammatical portion of the work. The Oriental characters, those crooked and forbidding forms, which like a thorn fence block the avenues of approach to every Eastern language, deterring nearly all but students upon compulsion from attempting an entrance, do not here obtrude themselves before they are required. Nevertheless, let it not be supposed that, by adopting this method of commending the study of Hindústání to all classes of Englishmen resident or likely to be resident in India, I underrate the importance of acquiring a knowledge of the native alphabets.

My only object has been, so to remove the first difficulties of the subject, that the most unstudious of Englishmen may be allured onwards to the acquirement of a correct knowledge both of the language and the two principal alphabets, such as every gentleman who pretends to superiority over the Hindús ought to possess. "The grand point is," as the father of Hindústání Grammar, Dr. Gilchrist, has observed in the preface to his *Philology*, "by some scheme or other to render the study of the most necessary Oriental tongues easy *at first*, that every learner, if possible, may acquire some taste for, and knowledge of their rudiments, to prepare him for proceeding with alacrity in his future career, instead of being harassed and disgusted

at the outset with a strange tongue, and a still stranger character at the same time. Were we to learn French through the medium of a new alphabet, I have little hesitation in saying that for thirty tolerable linguists in this language we should not have ten; and the same effects will be produced by similar causes in the acquisition of any other tongue, more especially in a country like India, where everything conspires to enervate the body and mind of students who have not previously at home acquired a relish for the vernacular speech of the people amongst whom they are destined to sojourn. That the real pronunciation and inflection of words, with the general construction of Hindústání, are most obvious in the Roman character there can be no doubt; nor is there anything to prevent learners from afterwards making themselves masters of whatever character they find most essential."

But although my main design in applying the English alphabet to the explanation of Hindústání grammar has been to make the language of Hindústán more attractive to Englishmen generally, yet other collateral advantages may flow from a plan which falls in with the system now being introduced into India by learned and devoted missionaries—I mean that of printing the Hindústání Bible and other books in Roman type. Even Urdú newspapers and magazines (for example the *Khair-khwáh i Hind*, which has been ably conducted under the auspices of the Rev. B. C. Mather, of

Mirzapore) are now printed on this plan, and are largely read by anglicised natives. If our simple alphabet can be employed to express the spoken dialects of India, and books printed in this type can be circulated throughout the land, the natives may be gradually familiarised to our system, and may adopt it (as many have already done) in preference to their own. No one can estimate the potency of such an engine in promoting intercourse and communion between the European and Asiatic races.

And let me here venture a remark which, however trite, cannot be too often repeated, that if we hope, not merely to retain India, but to avert a similar or perhaps a more general rebellion than that of 1857, we must endeavour gradually to remove the partition-wall between the races. The remembrance of that terrible mutiny is likely for a long period to embitter our intercourse with the natives. Such estrangement as that which has hitherto subsisted between governors and governed, ought not to continue. It is no mere question of holding or abandoning our Eastern Empire. It is a question of life or death to the thousands of our fellow-countrymen resident in India. It is a question of honour or disgrace to every Englishman, whether abroad or at home. If we do not seek to know the people of India better than we have hitherto done; if, instead of respecting them as our fellow-men and fellow-subjects, we persist in despising them