THIRD REPORT ON THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN BENGAL; INCLUDING SOME ACCOUNT OF THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN BEHAR, AND A CONSIDERATION OF THE MEANS ADAPTED TO THE IMPROVEMENT AND EXTENSION OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION IN BOTH PROVINCES

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Third Report on the State of Education in Bengal; Including Some Account of the State of Education in Behar, and a Consideration of the Means Adapted to the Improvement and Extension of Public Instruction in Both Provinces by William Adam

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WILLIAM ADAM

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By WILLIAM ADAM.

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[&]quot;The disposition to maintain and the skill to improve are the two elements, the union of which forms the great statesman."—BURKE.

[&]quot;No system for any part of the municipal administration" (of India) "can ever answer that is not drawn from its ancient institutions or assimilated with them."—SIR THOMAS MUNRO.

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EDUCATION IN BENGAL AND BEHAR.

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EDUCATION

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Bengal and Behar.

I have now arrived at that stage of the inquiry into native education that enables me to submit a final Report of my labours, and I proceed, for the information of Government, to discharge this duty. This Report will embrace, first, a view of the statistical results of the investigation; and second, a consideration of the means adapted to the improvement and extension of public instruction.

CHAPTER FIRST.

STATISTICS OF EDUCATION IN THE DISTRICT AND CITY OF MOOR-SHEDABAD; IN THE DISTRICTS OF BEERSHOOM, BURDWAN, AND MIDNAPORE IN BENGAL; AND IN THE DISTRICTS OF SOUTH BEHAR AND TIRHOOT IN BEHAR.

In this Chapter it will be my object to present a view of the state of instruction in the different localities I have visited. For this purpose, instead of burthening this Report with long and numerous tabular statements which few would read, I have endeavoured to abridge the records that have accumulated on my hands, and to exhibit in a concise narrative form the principal information they contain. I hope in this way to convey a distinct impression of the existing state of native instruction; and the records and tables which I have prepared or caused to be prepared in the English and native languages may at any time be produced, if required, in support of the conclusions founded on them. Some notice of the origin and progress of the inquiry, of the dates at which the respective localities were visited, and of the plans of investigation adopted, is necessary to show the periods to which the information relates, the advantages or disadvantages under which it was collected, and the extent to which it may be entitled to confidence.

Section I.—Progress of the Inquiry.

I was originally appointed by Lord William Bentinck's government to conduct inquiries into the state of native education in Bengal only; and I subsequently received authority from the present government to extend them into the province of Behar. In Bengal the districts that have been visited are those of Rajshahi, Moorshedabad, Beerbhoom, and Burdwan; and in Behar, those of South Behar and Tirhoot.

My appointment by the Governor General in Council is dated 22d January 1835, placing me under the orders of the General Committee of Public Instruction, whose instructions I received dated 7th March. On the 8th of April I obtained the authority of the Committee, before

proceeding into the interior of the country, to report the amount of information possessed in existing publications and official documents on the subject of native education in Bengal, and such a Report was accordingly submitted to the Committee on the 1st of July following and afterwards printed by the order of Government.

In prosecution of the further instructions of the Committee, I proceeded in the early part of July to the district of Rajshahi and remained there till the end of October, but it was only during the month of August and a part of September that the season of the year permitted me to pursue my investigations. During the remaining part of September and the month of October I prepared a Report on the State of Education in Rajshahi, which was transmitted to the General Committee in December, and subsequently printed by the order of Government.

Since leaving Rajshahi I have not found leisure to make any other Report, and with the exception of that district therefore the present Report includes all the localities I have visited. The months of November and December 1835, were employed in the Moorshedabad district; January and February 1836 in the district of Beerbhoom; and March and April following in that of Burdwan. During the months of May and June I was employed by the orders of Government on another duty in Calcutta, but was directed to resume my educational survey in July and August. These two months were devoted to the city of Moorshedabad which at the time I visited the district of that name had been reserved for future investigation. Returning to Calcutta in the beginning of September I was detained there by the other duty already referred to until the end of January 1837, when I received orders to proceed into Behar in prosecution of the inquiry into native education, and to limit my investigations to two districts, one situated to the south and the other to the north of the Ganges, as samples of the province. I was accordingly occupied in this duty in the Gya district or South Behar during the months of February, March, and a part of April; and in the Tirhoot district or North Behar during the months of May and June, when I returned to Calcutta to arrange the materials I had collected and prepare the present Report.

It thus appears that I have been engaged an aggregate period of about fifteen or sixteen months, in all seasons of the year, in the actual business of