

DUPLEIX

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Dupleix by John Biddulph

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JOHN BIDDULPH

DUPLEIX

D U P L E I X

BY

COLONEL JOHN BIDDULPH

AUTHOR OF

"THE NINETEENTH AND THEIR TIMES"

"THE PIRATES OF MALABAR AND ENGLISHWOMAN IN INDIA"

"STRINGER LAWRENCE"

"He was known often to say that he would reduce the English settlements of Calcutta and Madras to their original state of fishing towns."—ORMS

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PREFACE

COLONEL MALLESON, in the Preface to his *History of the French in India*, mentions his indebtedness to an article on Dupleix in the *National Review* for 1862, by an anonymous writer, who has since been identified under the name of Cartwright. The article is a bit of special pleading, admittedly written for the purpose of elevating Dupleix to a higher pedestal than that on which his own countrymen had placed him. The necessarily brief sketch of his career is written with such strong bias against the Directors of the French East India Company, and is marred by such suppression and distortion of important facts as to render it worthless as a contribution to history. It has, however, gained importance by having furnished the foundation on which Malleison in England and Hamont in France have built up a legendary Dupleix who is an exaggerated portrait of the real man as