

**POLITICAL
INCIDENTS OF THE
FIRST BURMESE WAR**

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Political incidents of the first Burmese war by Thomas Campbell Robertson

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THOMAS CAMPBELL ROBERTSON

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FIRST BURMESE WAR**

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POLITICAL INCIDENTS
OF THE
FIRST BURMESE WAR.

BY
THOMAS CAMPBELL ROBERTSON,
LATE OF THE BENGAL CIVIL SERVICE.

LONDON :
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1853.

PREFACE.

STEAM, amongst its other marvels, has accomplished that of changing the indifference of the British public into something like interest in the affairs of our Eastern Empire.

Twenty-seven years ago, a languid attention was all that could be awakened, even by the most lively narratives, to the events of the first Burmese War; *now*, the leading Journals of the day reserve a prominent place in their influential columns for intelligence from the banks of the Irrawaddy.

That war, however, was a most momentous event.

Its effect was not like that of all preceding wars, to assert our supremacy as the paramount

power in India, or what may be called Brahminical Asia, but to lay the foundation of another empire, destined apparently in its development to extend over the Indo-Chinese, or Buddhist nations of the East.

Though the part taken by the Author was but little known, yet his opportunities of observation were greater perhaps than fell to the lot of any other individual, as he was employed from the very commencement of the contest in a political capacity,—first with one expedition, and then with another, in the two countries of Arracan and Ava.

The Author has hitherto been deterred from recording any of his reminiscences in print, partly by the prevailing indifference on the subject, and partly by a conviction that the best thing every well-wisher to England, India, and Ava could do, was, to let the very existence of the latter State sink, if possible, into oblivion.

Both of these motives for silence have now lost their force, and therefore the following pages are offered to the public, in the hope that, if they fail to amuse, they may have some influence in arousing attention to the necessity of increasing the numerical strength of the European infantry, allotted to the defence of our Eastern possessions, so that it may keep pace with the progress of territorial extension.

T. C. ROBERTSON.

WILTON CRESCENT,
March 1853.



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