

**VIZIER ALI KHAN; OR, THE
MASSACRE OF
BENARES: A CHAPTER IN
BRITISH INDIAN HISTORY**

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Vizier Ali Khan; Or, The Massacre of Benares: A Chapter in British Indian History by John Francis Davis

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JOHN FRANCIS DAVIS

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Miss Sykes

1871

VIZIER ALI KHAN:

A CHAPTER

IN

BRITISH INDIAN HISTORY.



ATTACK ON THE HOUSE OF MR DAVIS. AT BENARES

From a drawing by Major A. S. Davis R.M. 52 Regt.

Published by W. G. Smith, London

VIZIER ALI KHAN

OR

THE MASSACRE OF BENARES :

A CHAPTER IN

BRITISH INDIAN HISTORY.

'I talk not of mercy, I talk not of fear ;
He neither must know who would serve the VIZIER.'

Byron.

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HENRY MORSE STEPHENS

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MIND
AUGUST 1840

at

PREFACE

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THE SECOND EDITION.

THE first appearance of this short History was in 1844, and the whole impression having been long since exhausted, the present renewal, with some additions, in a limited number of copies, is chiefly for the supply of private friends and relatives. The principal details were obtained by me from the late Hon. Mountstuart Elphinstone, appointed on his first arrival in India as assistant to my father the judge and magistrate of Benares, and present at the time of the revolt.

There were episodes in the late Indian Mutiny not unlike the events here recorded. Had the first outbreak at Meerut, in 1857, been as speedily quenched, and the mutinous regiments prevented from marching to Delhi, the perils of that crisis might have been greatly diminished.

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Vizier Ali was probably encouraged in his attempt at Benares by the aspect of affairs on the side of Mysore, where Lord Wellesley had been summoned from Calcutta by the war with Tippoo Sultann, terminated only by the defeat and death of that Prince at Seringapatam in the following May, about four months after the failure of Vizier Ali. Had the latter not been so speedily put down, the spread of revolt at such a period might have taxed the resources of the Indian Government. Lord Wellesley's appreciation of the service rendered at Benares is recorded at page 75, in testimonials from himself.

J. F. D.

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

VIZIER ALI KHAN

OR

THE MASSACRE OF BENARES.

THE kingdom of Oude is the only portion of the great plain of the Ganges that is not immediately subject to the government of British India; extending from the banks of that great river to the foot of the lower range of Himalaya, and surrounded on three of its sides by the dominions of the Company. Lucnow, the capital, though a large and populous place in early times, became the residence of the court as late as 1775, but soon grew to be one of the wealthiest cities in Hindoostan; rivaling those more ancient seats,

Where the gorgeous East, with richest hand,
Shower'd on her kings barbaric pearls and gold.

On the decease of the reigning sovereign,

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