

**THE KEY OF THE HEARTS
OF BEGINNERS. A
SET OF TALES WRITTEN
DOWN IN PERSIAN**

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The Key of the Hearts of Beginners. A Set of Tales Written down in Persian by Bibi Brooke & Annette S. Beveridge

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BIBI BROOKE & ANNETTE S. BEVERIDGE

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THE KEY OF THE HEARTS OF BEGINNERS.

A Set of Tales written down in Persian by

BIBI BROOKE,

And Translated into English by

ANNETTE S. BEVERIDGE.

Univ. of
California



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—
1908.

B71.

Philosophy - History.

GIFT OF

PROFESSOR C. A. KOFOLD

TO THE
UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA

664

735
B572
K E 2

IN REMEMBRANCE OF
MANY PLEASANT HOURS,
TO
MY FRIEND, JOHN NUGENT.

M217122

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(Following the stories is what may be called a common-place book, *i.e.*, reproductions of short stories from named books, explanations of phrases, and verses. The whole volume is closed by an announcement that it is complete.)

TRANSLATOR AND EDITOR'S PREFACE.

SEARCHING one day in the story-book corner of our friend, Mr. Edward Hepry Whinfield's library for something written in colloquial Persian, we came upon the little manuscript which is translated into English in this volume. It bears the quaint title of the *Key of the Hearts of Beginners*; though written in Persian it is not by a Persian born and therefore does not give the idiomatic wording we were seeking; but it is treasure-trove because it not only contains good stories but reveals in their compiler a charming personality.

It was put together more than a hundred years ago by a Hindūstāni lady, a Musalmāni, who was the wife of William Augustus Brooke, one of the several Brookes then in the East India Company's service. Clearly its author was gently bred, of whatever unnamed family she came; and as a well-born Musalmāni will have been accustomed to the presence in her home of the daily teacher (*ātān*). That an Englishman should marry her agreed with the Anglo-Indian habit of her day. Mr. W. A. Brooke went out in 1769 when about seventeen years old; he made his permanent home in India and died there, in Benares (in 1833) at the age of 81. His epitaph is preserved in the Bengal Obituary of 1848; its last words endorse his wife's account of his kindness; "His amiable character endeared him alike to the Hindi, the Musalmān and the Christian inhabitants of the city." (note).

At the time of his death, he was Senior Judge of Appeal and Governor-General's Agent in Benares. The Bibi's preface records his service in Calcutta previous to 1781-82 (A.H. 1196) and after this date, in Patna. Service in Birbhūm also can be inferred from two records both of which add information about