

**A VINDICATION OF THE  
MARQUIS OF  
DALHOUSIE'S  
INDIAN ADMINISTRATION**

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A Vindication of the Marquis of Dalhousie's Indian Administration by Sir Charles Jackson

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**SIR CHARLES JACKSON**

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*W. Baron Bramwell*  
*from*  
*the Author*  
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INDIAN ADMINISTRATION.

BY

SIR CHARLES JACKSON.

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## INTRODUCTION.

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SEVERAL works have lately appeared containing reflections on the Indian Administration of the late Marquis of Dalhousie. According to Mr. Kaye, that statesman was a 'great minute writer,' 'with unrivalled powers of special pleading,'<sup>1</sup> who committed many unwise and unjust acts, which caused general discontent, and contributed to produce the Sepoy war. Mr. Arnold represents Lord Dalhousie as an able administrator and statesman, driven by 'one dominant passion' 'to the very verge of conventional justice, generosity, and good faith, and even sometimes not a little

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<sup>1</sup> KAYE'S *Sepoy War*, pp. 78-78.

'beyond those boundaries,'<sup>1</sup> and the narrative of his annexations seems 'doubtless more like counting out the spoil of brigands in a wood than detailing the acts of English statesmanship;'<sup>2</sup> and Major Bell affirms that Lord Dalhousie 'lowered the reputation of our Government by repeated breaches of our pledged faith,' and adds, in words for which he claims additional weight as being 'carefully chosen,' that 'he was the very worst and basest of rulers.'<sup>3</sup>

I shall not comment on the language in which some of these opinions are conveyed, although I think a life devoted to his country, and prematurely worn out in its service, might have secured for Lord Dalhousie at least the semblance of respect. But without pausing to enter into any verbal controversy, I propose, in a short explanation and defence of his policy, to examine whether there is any just foundation for such an estimate of his character and administration. I think that such an inquiry, impartially

<sup>1</sup> ARNOLD's *Dalhousie Administration*, p. 200.

<sup>2</sup> ARNOLD, p. 199.

<sup>3</sup> *The Empire in India*, by Major BELL, p. 26.

conducted, will show that Lord Dalhousie was a great administrator and statesman, with large views as to the requirements of India and his own duties as its Governor-General; that his policy was the policy of progress and civilization; and that his measures added materially to the happiness and prosperity of the people of India.

I do not propose to write a history of Lord Dalhousie's administration. I shall pass over in silence his annexation of the Punjab, and shall not repeat the praises, which have been well bestowed, on his admirable arrangements, and selection of officers, for the government of that province. I shall not speak of the conquest of Pegu, nor dwell on his judicious arrangements on that occasion, which I had particular opportunities of observing. Neither is it my intention to chronicle those peaceful glories, which throw a brighter light on his administration than all his conquests and annexations, his canals, railroads, electric telegraph, and other public works, as well as his anna postage. I shall