

**THE REVELATIONS OF AN ORDERLY:  
BEING AN ATTEMPT TO EXPOSE THE  
ABUSES OF  
ADMINISTRATION BY THE RELATION OF  
EVERY-DAY OCCURRENCES IN THE  
MOFUSSIL COURTS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649692842

The Revelations of an Orderly: Being an Attempt to Expose the Abuses of Administration by the Relation of Every-Day Occurrences in the Mofussil Courts by Paunchkouree Khan

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

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*W. Reed*  
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BENARES:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY E. J. LAZARUS & CO.,  
AND SOLD BY  
TURNER AND CO., PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON  
AND ALL BOOKSELLERS,

1866.

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO ACT XX OF 1847.

JQ 235  
P 36  
1866  
PREFACE.

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The following pages were originally written for and published in the "*Benares Recorder*." The object of the writer was to state, in simple language, facts that had come under his own observation; and to expose abuses in the subordinate administration of the Courts, that are universally acknowledged to exist. A varied experience of twenty-one years in different departments of the Government Service, had given him some insight into the native character; and he was desirous of shewing the public in general, and young officials in particular, the several modes that the natives have of "*throwing dust*" in the eyes of their European superiors.

The writer was also desirous of pointing out to the authorities a few of the weak points of the system of Police and Revenue. He could not presume to do this in his own person; and he made use of the fictitious agency of "*an Orderly*," to relate his own diverse experience.

The writer of these pages once for all, begs leave to state, that nothing tending to the personal disparagement of any individual, was intended. He earnestly hopes that no offence has been taken at any of his remarks; and he throws himself upon the indulgence of the public, in once more intruding on their notice.





REVELATIONS  
OF AN  
ORDERLY.

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No. 1.

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Some three years ago my friend Suntokhea was a poor devil of an Oomedwar;\* and having a friend at the back stairs he succeeded in being appointed an orderly of the Huzoor Magistrate Bahadour. Having returned to my home, after a fruitless wandering in search of employment, I thought of my quondam friend and townsman, and proceeded to visit him at once. When I saw him I could scarcely credit my eyes; instead of the squalid mud-hut, roofed with coarse reeds, there had arisen a comely brick mansion; and instead of my friend Suntokhea being haggard and hungry-looking, I saw a respectable, sleek-bearded, Moosulman-looking stranger; bearing indeed a sort of resemblance to my old acquaintance, but at the same time with such an air of grandeur that I was afraid to ad-

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\* Expectant.

dress him. Involuntarily I joined my hands and salamed, but no notice was vouchsafed me, until happening to enquire whether my friend *Suntokhea* were in existence, one of the party told me that *Suntokhee-Singh*,\* was, indeed, before me. Apologizing for my inadvertent rudeness, I tried to make myself obsequiously agreeable; and every body having left, my friend at length deigned to notice me and to enquire as to my adventures. I satisfied my friend's curiosity, and taking advantage of his complaisant mood, I begged of him to enlighten me as to the ways and means by which he, once a poor *Koonbee*,† had acquired so much substance? He communicated as follows:—

“What a silly fool you must be my friend, to suppose I could have *saved* aught from my pay. As an orderly, I receive four rupees a month; I am expected to be smartly dressed, and to be in constant attendance on the Huzoor; I must have something to eat during the day, and I cannot come home to my wife for my day meals. How then can I keep myself in decent clothing, and feed myself, wife and children, on four rupees a month?”

To this I replied, that I was only the more puzzled to find out the secret of his system. That he

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\* The usual affix to a Rajpoot's name. Singh means a lion.

† A cultivator of a caste famous for its industry.

could do nothing for any suitor for justice; nor could he bar access to the Huzoor.\* How then could he make money?

“My sapient friend,” said Suntokhea, “I was not aware that you were so green. We have scores of ways of making money, even when our masters are vigilant and cautious, and vainly imagine that because, forsooth, they take the trouble to do the work themselves, no person will give fees. I will describe some few of the processes by which we receive money.”

“A great man’s Mooktyar† or Karinda is sent by his master to wait on the Huzoor; he is admitted into the entrance hall, where he remains unnoticed for a couple of hours. To all his prayers to give intimation to the Huzoor of his presence, a deaf ear is turned; until fairly exhausted, the Karinda offers me a rupee; this is spurned, and I ask him whether he thinks I *could* possibly take *one* rupee? the poor man, driven to desperation, offers me five rupees. On this I pocket the affront, put on my sweetest smile, declare that he is a perfect *ushraf*,‡ and intimate to my master, that such an one craves an interview. Five rupees you will say is but a small morsel. I allow it; but then these delicate bits come frequently.”

\* Literally, the presence.

† Attorney or representative.

‡ Nob.