

**HINTS ON IRREGULAR CAVALRY:  
ITS CONFORMATION,  
MANAGEMENT AND USE IN BOTH  
A MILITARY AND POLITICAL  
POINT OF VIEW, PP. 1-106**

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Hints on Irregular Cavalry: Its Conformation, Management and Use in Both a Military and Political Point of View, pp. 1-106 by Charles Farquhar Trower

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**CHARLES FARQUHAR TROWER**

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IRREGULAR CAVALRY,  
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CONFORMATION, MANAGEMENT AND USE IN BOTH A  
MILITARY AND POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW.

BY  
CAPT. CHARLES FARQUHAR TROWER,  
*MAJOR OF BRIGADE.*  
H. H. THE NIZAM'S CAVALRY.

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TO

LIEUT.-COL. JAMES BLAIR,

THE SENIOR OFFICER SERVING WITH IRREGULAR CAVALRY

IN INDIA,

THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE INSCRIBED WITH

THE SINCEREST FEELINGS OF REGARD

AND ESTEEM, BY

C. F. TROWER.



## CHAPTER I.

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### INTRODUCTION.

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WE are taught in boyhood, and prove in after life, that in all dealing 'honesty is the best policy;' and I am inclined to think, following out that proverb, that the best excuse I can make for publishing the following pages, is, giving extracts from the correspondence which has led me into print.

MY DEAR C——,

After a search of many days amongst my ill-assorted papers, I think I have collected all the loose 'memoranda' regarding the subjects connected with irregular Cavalry, upon which you requested to be furnished with my 'opinions.' Such as they are, you are very welcome to them; and I hope, (I must confess the hope is faint,) that they will realize the very partial expectations you have formed of them. Your acuteness will



not fail to perceive that they have been noted down at various periods, and that a strong bias towards a race of people whom I greatly regard, and a service that I love, pervades the whole of them. This, on my part, is only natural. I have lived much amongst natives, and on such terms of intimacy with their nobles and gentles as few European officers strive to attain. I have long been attached to, and even before I joined, I saw much of, the Native Horse of India. In its ranks I reckon some of my best friends. I *know* that the material of which they are formed is not surpassed, even if equalled, by that of any branch of the Native Army of India: and of the gallant and loyal spirit which actuates them I am convinced, and my conviction is authorized by the proof which the conduct of the Irregular Cavalry of all the Presidencies has afforded in our late campaigns. I do not advance all this as an *excuse* for entertaining a good opinion of them. I do not deem an excuse necessary; but I merely mention it to *fortify* some ideas and suggestions which

I have brought forward, much canvassed even amongst those best capable of judging, and on the pros and cons of which even 'Doctors differ.' \* \* \* \* \*

The reply to this from my friend was as follows:—

"MY DEAR TROWER,—I am greatly obliged to you for the perusal of your notes. They contain a mass of interesting and valuable information, which I regret should be suffered to lie unknown and unheeded at the bottom of your well-worn camel-trunks at Amba. I wish I could persuade you to brush them up into shape, and launch them forth in print. I am not aware of the existence of any work which affords information regarding that very peculiar service, the Irregular Cavalry, or which would serve as a sort of manual to an officer when first appointed to Native Horse. The printed book of "Revised Rules and Regulations for the guidance of the Nizam's Army," which you sent me, certainly does not do so, though good as far as it goes: but it is about as

likely that one should become a good General from reading the Mutiny Act and Hough's Case Book, as that the perusal of the aforesaid "Rules, &c." will serve to form an officer for Irregular Horse.

Consider this hint, and at your leisure work up these notes of yours, and I will bet the amount of the Lord Bishop's Abstract for one month against my pittance for ditto, that the pamphlet will be kindly received." \* \* \* \* \*

Now I should be sorry to go halves in my friend's stake, nor am I vain enough to believe that his partial opinion will be concurred in by others, not biassed by feelings of friendship: but as I do hope that the following pages may be of some use, I have followed his advice and 'brushed up' my notes 'into some shape,' and herewith launch them forth.

The Irregular Horse have been much increased of late, and form now a very large portion of our Indian Cavalry. They deserve, if only from their numbers, some notice; and their organization, and