

**GENERAL JOHN JACOB,
COMMANDANT OF THE SIND
IRREGULAR HORSE AND
FOUNDER OF JACOBABAD**

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General John Jacob, Commandant of the Sind Irregular Horse and Founder of Jacobabad by
Alexander Innes Shand

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ALEXANDER INNES SHAND

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BY

ALEXANDER INNES SHAND

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"The War in the Peninsula," &c.*

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PREFACE

MRS. JACOB, of Tavistock, has had the goodness to place at my disposal all the papers of her uncle, the late General Jacob. He had carefully preserved the letters of his correspondents, and from that mass of material, with the unpublished manuscripts, memoranda, and pamphlets printed for private circulation, the difficulty was to make a selection. I am deeply indebted to Sir Bartle Frere and his sisters for access to their father's private letter-books ; and I owe a special debt of gratitude to Major-General Sir Henry Green for invaluable information as to Sind affairs in general and the personality of his old friend and commandant, to whom he succeeded in the charge of the frontiers.

Nor do my obligations end there, for almost all the portraits and illustrations are from engravings lent by Mrs. Jacob and Sir Bartle Frere and from photographs in the collection of Sir Henry Green. Most of the latter were taken by Dr. Henry Cook, who was attached to the Belooch mission.

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GENERAL JOHN JACOB

CHAPTER I

SIND IN 1838

THE oldest inhabitant of the parish of Woolavington, in Somerset, well remembers John Jacob, fifth son of the Vicar and future Warden of the Marches in Upper Sind. He describes John as "a fine-spirited young fellow, fond of fighting and far-away the best horseman in the country." Naturally that recalls the boyhood of the man whose genius in war and sagacious audacity in civil policy were to lay the solid foundations of British supremacy in India. Clive was what Jacob never was—a noted scapegrace, and in his earliest years he gave evidence of the fiery temper and uncontrollable passions which closed the most brilliant of careers in sombre tragedy. Clive, like Jacob, according to an uncle, was out of measure addicted to fighting, and the memorable feat, when he climbed the church spire and seated himself astride a dizzy gargoyle, showed the constitutional contempt of danger which was the distinguishing characteristic of both men. But Clive seems to have been the first of his ancient family who gave any proof of talent. John Jacob came of a cultured and studious stock. Many of its members, before

and since, have risen to eminence and deserved well of their country. To go no farther back, his great-grandfather was a surgeon of Kent, held in good repute, an Alderman and Chamberlain of Canterbury; his grandfather, also a surgeon, was a notable antiquary and naturalist; one of his uncles, a Glamorganshire squire in affluent circumstances, who removed afterwards to Guernsey, devoted his leisure to literary pursuits and collected materials for a work on the Channel Islands. A part was published in Paris; the sequel never appeared. That gentleman's fifth son was Sir George Le Grand Jacob, who had much in common with his cousin of Jacobabad fame, and had a distinguished career in the Indian service as soldier, administrator, and scholar. Like his cousin, Sir George was essentially masterful, strong in opinions as he was fearless in expressing them, and he was gifted with similar genius for conciliating and controlling Orientals. The Jacobs, in their many branches, were prolific. The Vicar of Woolavington had a sixth son, born a year after John, who followed him to Addiscombe, and thence to India, after completing his training at Chatham. William Stephen passed for the Engineers, and his tastes were scientific. Serving in the Bombay Presidency, he was sent on a survey of the North-West Provinces. He cannot have had private means, but he must have found wealthy backers, for in 1842 he established an observatory at Poona. On being gazetted captain he resigned his commission, and thenceforth devoted himself enthusiastically to astronomy. Indefatigable in study, notwithstanding his feeble health he not only did appreciable service to science, but persuaded

a parsimonious government to assist in endowing scientific institutions. He had all the thoroughness and earnestness of the family temperament, and returning to India on an astronomical mission, died prematurely at the age of forty-eight. Another brother was Headmaster of Christ's Hospital; and a cousin became Archdeacon and Canon of Winchester, and father of the present Bishop of Newcastle.

John Jacob was born at Woolavington on the 11th of January, 1812. We know little of his early years, and nothing of his mother, except that she was the daughter of the Rev. J. Bond, Vicar of Ashford, in Kent. So that although we can say, with many biographers, that in Jacob's case the child was father of the man, we cannot add with many more that he owed everything to the maternal training. As for lessons and schooling, all he had came from his father. The vicar, who had little money to spare, taught his own boys, and when John got his cadetship he went straight from Woolavington to Addiscombe. The venerable parishioner we have quoted followed his career with intense interest and admiration, but he never again set eyes on the lad. When John sailed for India in January, 1828, as second lieutenant in the Bombay Artillery, he took the last look of his native land. For thirty years he was to serve in India, and gradually he became so absorbed in engrossing work that he seldom seems to have dreamed of indulging in a furlough. For exactly two-thirds of these thirty years he was spending himself and being spent in a climate that, to endorse the language of all who knew it best, can only be described as infernal. Yet for these twenty