

**WILLIAM BOLTS, A
DUTCH ADVENTURER
UNDER JOHN COMPANY**

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William Bolts, a Dutch adventurer under John Company by N. L. Hallward

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N. L. HALLWARD

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A DUTCH ADVENTURER
UNDER JOHN COMPANY

BY

N. L. HALLWARD, M.A.

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PREFACE

THIS narrative of the life of William Bolts has been written in order to place at the disposal of the historical student a considerable amount of valuable material which has been hitherto not available, or not easily accessible, regarding the relations of the East India Company and its servants with the Country Powers, with the natives of India in general, and with rival European traders during the closing years of the eighteenth century. The publication of the work has been held up for many years—first by the difficulties which at one time hampered research in India, next by the reluctance of publishers to risk the issue of a book which might fail to interest the general public, and lastly by the war. At the same time it is hoped that some parts of the story may be not without interest for the general reader, owing to the light which they throw on the causes of the Patna Massacre and on the extraordinary unpopularity of the Nabobs, or returned Anglo-Indians, which is so widely reflected in early, and even in mid, Victorian literature. The root cause of the trouble was the indefensible system under which the Company paid its servants mere pittance and allowed them to recoup themselves by private trade. As Macaulay insisted, Clive was clearly right in his contention that it was absurd to give men power and require them to live in penury.

It is probable that a search among the archives of Vienna and of Paris would yield further information about the later years of William Bolts's career, of

which very little is known from 1784 until his death in 1808.

I am indebted to Mr Wilton J. Bolst for a pedigree of the Bolst or Bolts family from the later years of the eighteenth century to the present day, and for a copy of the death certificate of Mrs Ann Bolts, widow of William Bolts. I have also to thank the Right Rev. Monsignor A. Doubleday, late Rector of St John's Seminary, Womersley, and the members of his staff, the Rev. J. Costa de Beauregard, of Ore Place, Hastings, and the Rev. C. H. Collins, of the Seminaire des Carmes, Paris, for their kind assistance in elucidating the meaning of a rather obscure French phrase.

N. L. H.

October 1920

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