

MYSORE

AND

COORG.

A Gazetteer compiled for the Government of India.

BY

LEWIS RICE,

Director of Public Instruction, Mysore and Coorg.

VOL. III.

COORG.

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Preface.

On the termination, in May 1799, of the last English war with Mysore, and the restoration of the Hindu Ráj, which followed, it was resolved by the East India Company to obtain a topographical survey and general statistical account of the Territories that, for many years preceding, had been the scene of political events which attracted a large measure of attention not only in India and the East but also in England, France and other European countries.

Dr. Francis Buchanan (who subsequently assumed the name of Hamilton) was accordingly deputed, in February 1800,* by the Governor General, the Earl of Mornington, afterwards Marquis Wellesley, to travel through and report upon "the Dominions of the Raja of Mysore, and the country acquired by the Company in the late war from the Sultan, as well as that part of Malabar which the Company annexed to their own Territories in the former war under Marquis Cornwallis." He set out on this journey from Madras on the 23rd April 1800, and completed it on the 6th July 1801. His report was written from day to day, while travelling, in the form of a Journal, which on completion was transmitted to England and placed in the library of the East India House. On the recommendation of the learned Dr. (afterwards Sir Charles) Wilkins, the Librarian, its publication was sanctioned at the end of 1805, but the manuscript went to press apparently without the knowledge of its author. "Soon afterwards," says Dr. Buchanan in his introduction, "my duty having unexpectedly brought me to England, I was agreeably surprised to find that my Journal had obtained a reception so favourable. It is true I wished to have abridged the work before publication, and altered its arrangement; but as the printing had commenced before my arrival, and as my stay in England was likely to be very short, I could not undertake such alterations. I have therefore contented myself with revising the manuscript, and the superintendency of the press has been entrusted to Mr-Stephen Jones."

The work appeared in 1807, in 3 quarto volumes, under the title of A Journey from Madras through the countries of Mysore, Canara and Malabar. Every page teems with valuable information, but the disjointed style inseparable from the nature of a daily journal makes it difficult to consult, and it is much to be regretted that the accomplished author had not the opportunity f throwing the work into a more suitable form for publication. It was reprinted, a 2 volumes octavo, at Madras in 1870.

Then already well known for his valuable botanical researches in Burma and Chittagong.

While Dr. Buchanan was engaged in these travels, Colonel Colin Mackenzie-eventually Surveyor General of India, and well known to Orientalists for his antiquarian collections in Southern India*—was commissioned by the Governor General to make a Survey of Mysore. He was allowed only three assistants, with a medical officer as surgeon and naturalist. In spite of many obstacles, however, the survey was continued till 1807. The result was not alone a valuable contribution to geographical knowledge, but considerable materials were acquired of the statistics and history of the country. These were recorded in folio volumes transmitted to the East India Company. Copies of 8 volumes, attested by Colonel Mackenzie's signature, are deposited among the records of the Mysore Residency. The most novel and important of the discoveries made by him was that of the existence of the sect of Jains in India, which he was the first to bring to notice.

The first surgeon and naturalist attached to the Mysore Survey was Dr. Benjamin Heyne, whose papers on a variety of subjects relating to this and the neighbouring countries were published in London in 1814 (also by the recommendation of Dr. Wilkins, Librarian at the East India House) under the title of Tracts, Historical and Statistical, on India. Subsequently, the gifted Dr John Leyden't was attached to the Survey in the same capacity, but beyond a few anecdotes and verses in his Poetical Remains, published in London in 1819, I have failed to meet with anything of his specially about this Province, though it is stated that "he drew up some useful papers, which he communicated to the Government, relative to the mountainous strata and their mineral indications; as to the diseases, medicines and remedies of the natives of My-

^{*} Including, according to the catalogue by Prof. H. H. Wilson, 1,568 manuscripts of literary works, 2,070 local tracts, 8,076 copies of inscriptions, 2,150 translations, 2,709 plans and drawings, 6,218 coins, and 146 images and antiquities.

^{6,218} coins, and 146 images and antiquities.

+ "He rose," as Sir John Malcolm, Resident of Mysore, describes, "by the power of native genius, from the humblest origin to a very distinguished rank in the literary world. His studies included almost every branch of human science, and he was alike ardent in the pursuit of all. The greatest power of his mind was perhaps shewn in his acquisition of modern and ancient languages..."

His end was most sad. On the conquest of Java in 1811, he accompanied the Governor General, Lord Minto, to that island, and hearing at Batavia of a library containing a valuable collection of oriental manuscripts, hastened to explore it. The long low room, an old depository of effects belonging to the Dutch Government, had been shut up for some time, and the confined air was strongly impregnated with the poisonous quality which has made Batavia the grave of so many Europeans. Without the precaution of having it aired, he rushed eagerly in to examine its treasures, was seized in consequence with a mortal fever, and died on the 28th August, after three days illness, in the 36th year of his age. year of his age.

Southey wished "that Java had remained in the hands of the enemy, so Leyden were alive," while Sir Walter Scott paid the following tribute to his memory in the Lord of the Isles:— His bright and brief career is o'er,

And mute his tuneful strains Quenched is his lamp of varied lore, That loved the light of song to pour; A distant and a deadly shore

Has Leyden's cold remains.

The centenary of Leyden's birth was celebrated with public rejoicings in 1875 at his nativ village of Denholm, on the banks of the Teviot, in Scotland.

sore, and the peculiarities of their habits and constitution by which they might be exposed to disease; as to the different crops cultivated in Mysore and their rotation; and to the languages of Mysore, and their respective relations." Heyne's observations were confined to the north and east; Leyden's papers, if traced, would give us information regarding the south and west.

Colonel Mark Wilks, distinguished as the historian of Mysore, at which Court he was for a time Resident, published his well known work under the title of Historical Skelches of the South of India, in 3 volumes quarto; the first of which appeared in London in 1810, and the two last not till 1817, owing to his appointment during the interval as Governor of St. Helena, which office he held until the imprisonment on that island of the emperor Napoleon Buonaparte. "It displays," as an old reviewer justly observes, "a degree of research, acumen, vigour, and elegance, that render it a work of standard importance in English literature." A reprint, in 2 volumes octavo, was published in Madras in 1869.

Some monographs drawn up by officers of the Mysore Commission soon after the assumption of the government by the British in 1831, with kindred papers, were printed in 1864 as Selections from the Records. In 1855 a General Memorandum was prepared by Sir Mark Cubbon for the Marquis Dalhousie, and since that time Administration Reports have been regularly issued every year.

Other sources of information exist,* for a good deal has been written in connection with Mysore during a century back, much of it partisan; but the above were some of the chief public and authentic materials accessible for a work which had become a desideratum, namely a Gazetteer of Mysore brought up to date, presenting in a handy form and within a moderate compass all that was of interest in relation to the natural features, resources and productions of the country; its history, population, industry, administration, and any other subjects that had a claim to be treated of in such a handbook.

For the associated principality of Coorg a similar work was needed, and valuable contributions towards it were at hand: first, in the Rajendraname, a history of the Coorg Rajas from 1633 to 1808, written in Kannada, under the orders of the most celebrated of them—Dodda Vira Rajendra—and translated for him into English by Lieutenant Abercromby at Mangalore in 1808; next, in the Memoir of the Codugu Survey, (printed at Bangalore in 1870) a full and able description of the country by Lieutenant Connor, who effected the survey, under considerable difficulties, in the years 1815—1817; further, in the Coorg Memoirs, a very interesting publication by Dr. Moegling,

^{*} I would particularly mention Eastern Experiences, by Mr. I. Bowring, C. S. I., late Chief Commissioner, published in London in 1871.

the first Protestant Missionary in Coorg, which was printed at Bangalore in 1855, and in 1866 appeared in German in an enlarged and amended edition; and lastly, in Captain Le Hardy's Report at the time of the annexation of the country in 1834, and the annual Administration Reports since 1860.

The first step taken towards supplying the want was in June 1867, when a circular was addressed by Mr. Saunders, c. B., the present Chief Commissioner, who was then officiating, to the Superintendents of Divisions, directing the compilation, for each District, of a Gazetteer similar to one then lately published of the Bhandara District in the Central Provinces. In pursuance of these orders, during the next two years, nine manuscript volumes were prepared. Only three, however, came to be printed; namely, one for Mysore District, by Mr. Wellesley; one for Kolar, I presume by Mr. Krishnaiengar, c. s. 1; and one for Coorg, by the Reverend G. Richter. Of the remainder, those for Bangalore and Kadur were not completed; the one for Shimoga bears the signature of Captain Gordon Cumming; that for Hassan of Major W. Hill; that for Túmkúr of Major C. Pearse; and that for Chitaldroog of Mr. Krishna Rao. The subsequent Reports on the Census of November 1871, by Major Lindsay, naturally superseded most of the statistical information contained in them.

The design to appoint an editor who should bring out one work on a uniform plan was next adopted, and eventually, in 1873, with the sanction of the Government of India, it was proposed to me to undertake the compilation of the Gazetteer of Mysore and Coorg. A personal acquaintance more or less with every part of the two countries, gained in the course of official duty; a familiarity with the local vernaculars; and some measure of information regarding the literature and ancient history of this part of India, derived from antiquarian studies; led me to anticipate the work with interest. But being, at almost the same time, raised to the head of the Educational Department, I found that the labours of a new office which is no sinecure, left little leisure for the extra duty imposed upon me. I was therefore forced to be content for some time with making tours to such parts of the country as I had not recently visited, and collecting information from various quarters.

However, when in 1874 Dr. Hunter, Director General of Statistics, who is charged with the editorship of the Imperial Gazetteer for the whole of India, visited Bangalore, I was able to lay before him the plans I had formed for the work, and at his request undertook to prepare for Mysore a manual of each District separately, which I had not at first intended, as it seemed to involve a certain degree of repetition. I am now glad that I did so, as it obliged me to go more minutely into several subjects. Dr. Hunter again paid a visit to Bangalore in January 1876, when a part of the work had been printed, and in his report to Government was pleased to express the strongest approval of what

had been done, and his "sense of the high value of the materials that had been

supplied."

The Gazetteer has thus finally taken the shape of two volumes devoted to Mysore, and a third to Coorg. Of the former, the first treats of Mysore in general, the second of Mysore by Districts, eight in number. A reference to the table of contents prefixed to each volume will enable the reader to see at a glance the arrangement and distribution of subjects. Volume II, it should be stated, was printed first. As regards Volume III, I am much indebted to Mr. Richter for placing at my disposal a revised copy of the greater part of his Manual. In general the present work has been brought down to 1875, but in the portions printed after that, a few statistics of later date have been admitted. I had thought to append a short biographical notice of some of the remarkable men, both Native and European, who have been connected with Mysore, but feared it would extend the work too much, and perhaps be considered foreign to its design. The subject, however, is one full of interest.

I will not deny that the Gazetteer has caused far more labour than I had anticipated, principally owing to the demands of an extensive Department, which prevented my ever giving undivided attention to the compiling of it. But these are conditions under which much of the best work in India has been accomplished, and I gratefully acknowledge the indulgence which has been extended by Government to any apparent, but unavoidable, delay in bringing the task to completion.

With regard to all such information and statements contained in these volumes as I am not personally responsible for, I have endeavoured to make a point of mentioning throughout the body of the work the authorities on which they are based; and my sincere and hearty thanks are tendered to all who have favoured me with any information or assistance, as well as to the Press I may add that the proofs have been seen, on the part of Government, by Major Tredway Clarke, Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner.

Bangalore, Xmas 1876.

Chief Editor's Note

After the reign of Tipu, Princely States of Mysore and Coorg came under the British rule. The day-to-day administration in respect of both the states was carried out by a single officer in many aspects.

Sir. Benjamin Lewis Rice edited and published the Gazetteers of Mysore and Coorg in two volumes in the year 1876. The third volume entitled "Mysore and Coorg" dealing exclusively with the then princely state of Coorg which was then a Chief Commissioner's Province was published in the year 1878. All the three volumes were published from the Mysore Government Press, Bangalore. While the first volume speaks of 'Mysore in General', the second explains 'Mysore by districts' and the third describes 'Coorg'. The first two volumes were revised and published by B.L.Rice himself in 1897. from the Westminister, London and the third volume, 'Coorg' was not revised.

B.L.Rice did the pioneering task of publishing the 'Coorg Inscription' volume in 1886. He also brought out a revised edition of the same in the year 1914. Articles on Mysore and Coorg penned by B.L.Rice in the 'Imperial Gazetteer of India' edited by W.W. Hunter in 1908 speaks volumes about his meticulous knowledge of Mysore and Coorg.

After the establishment of the State Gazetteer department in 1958, the first publication brought out was on Coorg. Incidentally, when the department ventured to publish the Kannada version of Gazetteers, it was the Coorg district Gazetteer that was brought out first in 1992 and its English translation in 1993. The department has already published 20 district Gazetteers and has undertaken the task of publishing the revised district Gazetteer's in Kannada and has so far accomplished the publication of five Gazetteer volumes including that of Mandya which was released a few months ago.

The intention behind reprint of old Gazetteers in their original format using the latest technological tools is to keep the posterity posted of the stupendous scholarly and academic errands carried out by eminent officers of yore notwithstanding the innumerable hazards they faced beginning with the collection of relevant data till the printing stage. In order to maintain the nostalgic memories, selected contemporary photographs have been incorporated which are not found in the original. I hope, this reprinted volume will be well received.

I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude to the honourable Minister for Kannada and Culture, Smt. Rani Satish for her encouragement. I thank Sri. B.S. Patil, IAS., Chief Secretary and Chairman, Gazetteer Advisory Committee who retired on 31-01-04 and Sri K.K. Mishra, IAS., the present Chief Secretary, and Chairman of the Gazetteer Advisory Committee for their valuable guidance in the activities of our department. I express my heartfelt thanks to Smt.Usha Ganesh, IAS., Principal Secretary to Government, Kannada and Culture department and Dr.C.S.Kedar, IAS., former Secretary, Kannada and Culture department for their valuable guidance in all our ventures. The timely help rendered by Dr K.Paddayya, Director, Deccan Institute of Advanced Studies in Archaeology in lending this rare volume for scanning and reprint is always remembered. I hereby gracefully acknowledge the help rendered by the authorities of Mythic Society by lending the original book "Coorg Memoirs (1855)" by Rev. H. Moegling for the purpose of scanning and reprinting the same in this volume. The contribution of Sri Paramesh Pandey, IAS., who headed the department from 21-04-2003 to 14-07-2003 is greatfully acknowledged. I place on record the services of Sri S.A.Jagannath, Senior Editor and Dr. A. Lakshminarasimhan, Investigator who have overseen the printing. I thank M/S. Parishree printers for executing the printing work neatly.

> H.Chittaranjan, KAS Chief Editor Karnataka Gazetteer

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Coorg Memoirs (1855) by Rev. H. Moegling

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Addenda et Corrigenda.

Vol. I.

```
read twenty one.
                              S. For twelve, realest. n first half, &c., n
Page 190,
                   line
        191,
                                                                            Gangas.
                                    " Kongus " Gangas.
first column of table. Between Vishnu Gopa and Madhava, insert
        192,
        198,
                             12.
                                        Raja Malla
                                                                                                     350.
                                    second column, read-
                                        Vilanda Raja,
S'ri Vallabha
                                        Nava Kama, Fivamára, Kongani Maharaja
                                                                                                              668.
                             12, do, insert
                                                ..., Racha Malla Permmanadi
                                                                                                     857-869.
                                                                                                     869-
                                            do, Permmanadi
                                   For one . . . in, read ten in various parts of.
        203,
                                   After solo, read preceded the Fallavas.
                                   Add, The Chalukya King Vikramaditya, ruling 733—746, is stated to have stain the Pallava king Nandi Pota Varmma in battle, and entering Kanchi without destruction, overlaid with gold the stone studies of Raja Simhesvara and other deva kula made by Narasimha Pota Varmma.
        204.
                           17, For 7th read (?) 11th
4 of table. Read Pulakesi, Rana Vikrama.
-2, first column of table. Read.—
Satyasraya, Pulakesi... .... (
Amara, Ambeta
       205,
206,
                                                                                                (?) 606-634
                                   do For 592 read (?)
                                   second column. Read
                                                                                                              -747.
                                        Vikramaditya
                                                                                                      747--758 .
                                        Kirtti Varmma
                           22, After kimself insert protector of.
       208,
                          17. For Jaya Simha add foot note-
       209.
                                       An inscription at Anantapur gives his full name as Srimat
Trailokya Malla Vira Nolamba Pallava Permmanadi Jaya
Singha Deva, and it would appear that his mother was a
                                        Pallava princess.
                             Last. Add foot note-
      210,
                   12
                                        According to one inscription Ahava Malla was the younger
brother of Sankama.
                                  first column of table. Insert 1065.
       214,
                                                                           1252.
                                  Omit apparently. For but . . . latter, n
After son insert was. Omit is to end of sentence.
        93
                          29,
33,
                                                                                              latter, read He.
        22
                   73
      215,
                                  For resided in read
                                                                    terrified.
  77
                          11,
                                       Anemal
Konkanad
                                                                    Anamale.
  22
        33
                   "
                          12,
25,
                                                                    Konkana.
                                                           23
  33
        11
                                       Nangale
                                                                     Nangali.
  77
        **
                                                                    Halasige.
                         Halasigere Halasige.
26 Omit Priyavana to end of sentence.
       ,
  99
       235.
                                For Timme read Tamme. Also wherever this name occurs, as Vol. II,
                          14
                                        94, &c.
     371, first note. For Vams. Brah. read S. Ind. Pal.
                  " Begin "On travelling through the Satára districts, I found Camarese spoken in villages much to the north of the limits assigned to it by the best authorities, reaching nearly up to Pandarpur." Sir Erakine Perry, J. Bo. Br. R. A. S. IV. 290.
      394,
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