

that of a good-sized Mofussil station; but is quite incompatible with the spirit of the present day, and the sub-division of Society into select circles and cliques, as rigid and ridiculous in their individual pretensions as those of Almack's, Mayfair, and the thousand-and-one coteries of the British Metropolis, or the Torres Vedras line of demarcation, drawn by the Seine between the Ancient Regime of the Fauburg St. Germain, and the vulgar *bonhomie* of the mass admitted to the Citizen Court. The practice too of insisting on the modes and fashions of cold climates, being adopted in this marshy, suffocating atmosphere, is as opposed to common sense and reason, as it is to health and comfort. The unfortunate soldier is compelled to button himself up to the chin, and undergo a preparatory state of drilling to fit him for a future state: but there is no law but that of imperious fashion to compel the merchant or civilian to clothe himself in broad cloth, and follow so absurd a system of self-penance and purgatory.

We must proceed however in our task, and pass on to the popular description of Agra, which immediately succeeds that of Calcutta. The reader is referred for all details relating to the Taj, and other objects of curiosity, to works devoted specially to such subjects. The sketch is a general and superficial view of the city and its environs, tolerably well outlined. We hope, however, in future editions, to see some of its monuments and remains well described and illustrated. They are objects of great historical, and antiquarian interest, well worthy of much more than a cursory notice in an Agra Guide and Gazetteer!

The Commercial Directory, which forms the succeeding part of its first volume, appears to be detailed and complete. On cursory inspection, it apparently contains all that can be wished for, or expected by the mercantile community.

The remainder of the volume is occupied with a great variety of details relating to Calcutta, the Government Assistants in public offices, Masonic Lodges, Banks, Mercantile Firms, *cum multis aliis* far too numerous even to mention here.

The second volume opens with a short statistical table of the *States, Surface, Sovereign or Government, Capital, Population, Religious Sects, Revenue, Debt, Armies and Shipping*, of the whole world. This is succeeded by a Chronological List of the Chief Maritime Discoveries of European nations. They are both useful and interesting.

The Road Book, of the various routes from Calcutta to most remote provinces and districts of the Anglo-Indian Empire, contains a large amount of valuable practical information. It has been chiefly compiled from the official copy in the Quarter-Master-General's Office—its accuracy may therefore be relied on.

We have not time at present to notice the Statistical Memoranda, most of which are original, and their authors indicated in a terminal notice, appended to this volume. We regard them as one of the most valuable and interesting portions of the work—forming excellent materials for a more complete and accurate account of the Physical Geography of India, than any at present extant.

The second division of the volume commences with a review of the political position of British India: with a sketch of the rise and progress of the Anglo-Indian Empire. Much care and literary labour have evidently been employed in compiling and condensing this epitome of the History of our Asiatic possessions.

The remainder of this part contains a great variety of miscellaneous memoranda on matters of Finance, Salt, Opium, general trade, and the Post-Office.