

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-02352-8 - The Competition Wallah
George Otto Trevelyan
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

History

The books reissued in this series include accounts of historical events and movements by eye-witnesses and contemporaries, as well as landmark studies that assembled significant source materials or developed new historiographical methods. The series includes work in social, political and military history on a wide range of periods and regions, giving modern scholars ready access to influential publications of the past.

The Competition Wallah

Sir George Otto Trevelyan's *Competition Wallah* was published in 1864 after previous serialisation in *Macmillan's Magazine*. Consisting of a series of letters from Henry Broughton, an imaginary young civil servant fresh from Cambridge, to a stay-at-home friend, the work was well-received in Britain and India, although it raised controversy in the Anglo-Indian community for its exposure of the attitudes of the British settlers to the Indian people in the wake of the Mutiny of 1857–9. Extraordinary and courageous for its time, this book examines society in India, exploring the gulf of cultural misunderstanding and racial prejudice, and attempting to bridge the gap between the early nineteenth-century reformist attitude and the defensive militarist imperialism of the latter half of the century. It is also notable for containing the first full publication in the west of the highly influential 'Minute on Education' of 1835 by Trevelyan's uncle, Thomas Babington Macaulay.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-02352-8 - The Competition Wallah
George Otto Trevelyan
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection will bring back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-02352-8 - The Competition Wallah
George Otto Trevelyan
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

The Competition Wallah

GEORGE OTTO TREVELYAN



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-02352-8 - The Competition Wallah
George Otto Trevelyan
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo, Mexico City

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108023528

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2010

This edition first published 1864
This digitally printed version 2010

ISBN 978-1-108-02352-8 Paperback

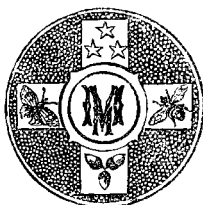
This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with, or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-02352-8 - The Competition Wallah
George Otto Trevelyan
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

THE
COMPETITION WALLAH.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-02352-8 - The Competition Wallah
George Otto Trevelyan
Frontmatter
[More information](#)



Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-02352-8 - The Competition Wallah
George Otto Trevelyan
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

THE

COMPETITION WALLAH.

BY

G. O. TREVELYAN.

*REPRINTED FROM MACMILLAN'S MAGAZINE,
WITH CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS.*

London and Cambridge:
M A C M I L L A N A N D C O.
1864.

The Right of Translation and Reproduction is Reserved.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-02352-8 - The Competition Wallah
George Otto Trevelyan
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

LONDON :
R. CLAY, SON, AND TAYLOR, PRINTERS,
BREAD STREET HILL.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-02352-8 - The Competition Wallah
George Otto Trevelyan
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

P R E F A C E.

THOSE who read these letters with attention cannot fail to perceive that my most earnest desire and most cherished ambition is to induce Englishmen at home to take a lively and effective interest in the native population of their Eastern dominions; and with that view to lay before them a plain statement of the feeling which is entertained towards that population by the European settlers in India. This is a task which cannot be undertaken by an anonymous writer. On a matter so momentous evidence will not be received from a witness whose character and antecedents are unknown. On all the great questions which now agitate Anglo-Indian society the civilians and the settlers are at odds: so that men naturally reject the testimony of

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-02352-8 - The Competition Wallah
George Otto Trevelyan
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

vi

Preface.

an author whom the larger half of his readers and reviewers believe to be a civilian. The admiration expressed in the fourth letter for the gallantry of Macdonell and Mangles, and the recital of the advantages of a public career in India contained in the fifth, were successively attributed to the predilection of the author for his own Service. This was of little consequence : but not so with the ninth letter, which exposes at length the horrible tone adopted by a certain class of Anglo-Indians regarding the murder of natives by Europeans. This exposition consists almost entirely of extracts from the Anglo-Indian journals themselves : and yet it was styled “a burst of civilian hatred against the Independent Settler” by no less a journal than the *Spectator*, which had noticed the previous letters most favourably and courteously. The tenth of the list is chiefly an attack upon the proposed Criminal Contract Law : the facts of which are drawn almost entirely from the writings of the advocates of that law. Nothing would have given me greater pleasure than a criticism, however hostile, in the pages of the *Spectator*, since my dearest object is to excite the interest of the English people in these questions so vital to India ;

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-02352-8 - The Competition Wallah
George Otto Trevelyan
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Preface.

vii

but the only notice bestowed upon me was that “the
“ Competition Wallah is writing on a subject on which
“ a civilian always loses his senses, and pleads his bro-
“ therly affection for natives as a reason for his cousinly
“ spitefulness to all settlers.”

I am not a civilian, nor a prejudiced witness : for, having sailed from England in a state of such entire ignorance with regard to Indian subjects as effectually to preclude the very existence of prejudice, during my first three months I lived much in the indigo district ; and my hosts and friends, whether official or non-official, were for the most part advocates of the Contract Law, and opposed to the policy of the Home Government. By the end of that time I was a rabid Anglo-Saxon. But, with increasing knowledge of the country, my opinions underwent a gradual but complete change. My faith in the principles of the anti-native party was first shaken by the violence and ferocity of the anti-native journals, the sure symptom of an unjust and unhealthy cause. Nine months more, spent in travel and study, and in free and familiar intercourse with all classes of men, European and native alike, have

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-02352-8 - The Competition Wallah
George Otto Trevelyan
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

viii

Preface.

strengthened and confirmed those opinions which are expressed at length in the latter half of this book. I entreat adverse critics from this time forward not to set down my sentiments to the score of civilian spite, but to show that I am wrong in my facts; that the European settlers cherish a kindly feeling towards the children of the soil; that they speak and write of them as equals in the eye of the law—as fellow-men and fellow-subjects; that they do not stigmatise them as “niggers,” and treat them little better than such; that they do not regard as execrable hypocrisy the sentiment that “we hold India for the benefit of the inhabitants of India.”

Something has been added to the book, and something altered. Much bad prose and worse rhyme has been omitted from the earlier letters: and yet a great deal remains so interwoven with more important matter that it cannot be expunged, of which I am heartily ashamed already, and expect to be still more ashamed in years to come. Such, however, must be the case with every young author, unless he be rarely precocious or uncommonly self-satisfied. It may be hoped that some pardon

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-02352-8 - The Competition Wallah
George Otto Trevelyan
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Preface.

ix

will be granted to youth and inexperience, and some to the excitement and emotion of one who has lived among scenes of social oppression and injustice which his readers have not known even by hearsay. These letters will not have been written in vain if, by their means, the natives of India obtain some portion of English sympathy and English justice.

2, CLARGES STREET.
April, 1864.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
LETTER OF INTRODUCTION	1
LETTER I.	
THE TWO SYSTEMS	6
LETTER II.	
AN INDIAN RAILWAY	21
LETTER III.	
A GOVERNMENT SCHOOL AND AN OPIUM FACTORY	47
LETTER IV.	
A STORY OF THE GREAT MUTINY	78
LETTER V.	
A JOURNEY, A GRAND TUMASHA, AND THE TRUTH ABOUT THE CIVIL SERVICE CAREER	113
LETTER VI.	
A TIGER-PARTY IN NEPAUL	158

LETTER VII.	
ABOUT CALCUTTA AND ITS CLIMATE ; WITH SERIOUS INFERENCES	PAGE 197
LETTER VIII.	
ABOUT THE HINDOO CHARACTER ; WITH DIGRESSIONS HOME . . .	246
LETTER IX.	
BRITISH TEMPER TOWARDS INDIA, BEFORE, DURING, AND SINCE THE MUTINY	278
LETTER X.	
THE "ANGLO-SAXON" PARTY IN INDIA	328
LETTER XI.	
CHRISTIANITY IN INDIA.	367
LETTER XII. AND LAST.	
EDUCATION IN INDIA SINCE 1835 ; WITH A MINUTE OF LORD MACAULAY	408