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James Outram
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Conquest of Scinde

This work by Sir James Outram (1803–63), subtitled *A Commentary* and originally published in two parts in 1846, is an attempt by the author to vindicate his reputation which, he believes, was sullied by Sir William Napier's book *The Conquest of Scinde* (1845; also reissued in this series), in which he is represented as devoid alike of military and diplomatic skill. (William Napier was the brother of Sir Charles Napier, the British Commander-in-Chief in India, and his account is not unbiased.) In Part 1, Outram declares his intention to expose these misrepresentations and to vindicate a reputation which for a quarter of a century he had 'maintained unimpeached'. He claims to corroborate his version of events using personal correspondence, describing in detail and in the first person the political and diplomatic intrigues and the military actions which led to the conquest of the Province of Sindh by the British.

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A Commentary

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THE
CONQUEST OF SCINDE
A COMMENTARY

BY
LIEUT.-COL. OUTRAM C.B.
RESIDENT AT SATTARAH

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS
EDINBURGH AND LONDON
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PART I
GENERAL SIR CHARLES NAPIER'S NEGOTIATIONS
WITH THE AMEERS

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P R E F A C E.

SOME explanation may be necessary to account for the delay which has taken place in the appearance of this work, as well as for its being now published in an incomplete form. The work was commenced by Colonel Outram immediately upon the appearance of General Sir William Napier's History of the Conquest of Scinde, and put in type in India. Thence the sheets were transmitted to some of Colonel Outram's friends in this country for the purpose of revisal, before being reprinted in their present form. This necessarily occasioned considerable delay, and the whole work is not yet ready, although long ago out of Colonel Outram's hands. It would have been desirable that the Commentary should have appeared at first in a *complete form*, but the great interest which at present attaches to the affairs of India, and the probability that the recent settle-

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ment of the Punjaub on principles of such admitted liberality and moderation, may lead to some reconsideration of our former policy in Scinde, have induced the Editor at once to publish the first portion of the volume, which contains the Negotiations of Sir Charles Napier with the Ameers.

The remainder of the work, comprising the actual operations against Scinde, and the subsequent treatment of the Ameers, will be published as speedily as it can be got through the press.