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Edited by Karl Alexander von Hügel and T. B. Jervis
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Travels in Kashmir and the Panjab

Written by Austrian baron Karl Alexander Anselm von Hügel (1795–1870), this travelogue was one of the first western books published on the Kashmir region. Von Hügel, who worked as a soldier, diplomat, botanist, explorer and ethnologist at various stages in his life, embarked on a trip to India in the 1830s as part of an extensive world tour. His account of his time in Kashmir and the Punjab was first published in German as a four-volume edition from 1840. He aimed to 'lift the veil' on Kashmir in an attempt to resolve the contentious reputation among Europeans of this unfamiliar region, and the book serves as a thorough guide to its history, geography, climate, culture and politics. This English translation and abridgement was prepared by Thomas Best Jervis (1796–1857) and published in 1845. Also included in this reissue is a biography that the author's son, Anatole von Hügel, privately published in 1903.

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Travels in Kashmir and the Panjab

KARL ALEXANDER VON HÜGEL
EDITED AND TRANSLATED BY
T.B. JERVIS



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Memoirs
Voyages and Travels,
ILLUSTRATIVE
 OF THE
GEOGRAPHY AND STATISTICS
 OF
Asia

EDITED BY MAJOR T. B. JERVIS, F.R.S.

*Earth's fairest realms in dearest ken
 Stetch'd out to the amplest reach of prospect lay,
 The eye might there command wherover stood
 City of old, or modern fame, the seat
 Of mightiest empire from the destin'd walls
 Of Cambalu, seat of Cathaian Khan,
 And Samarcand by Oxus, Timur's throne,
 To Pekin of Sincian Kings, and thence
 To Agra and Lahor of great Moghul,
 Down to the golden Chersonese or where
 The Persian in Ecbatan stood, or since
 In Isfahan, or where the Russian Czar"*

MILTON'S PARADISE LOST. BOOK XI.



PAULATIM.

LONDON.

JOHN PETHERAM, 71, CHANCERY LANE:

PUBLISHED ALSO FOR THE EDITOR AT CALCUTTA, MADRAS, AND BOMBAY.

1845

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Engraved by James Conner

Baron Ch. Hügel.

Habemus, 18.th Nov.^r 1835

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TRAVELS
 IN
 KASHMIR AND THE PANJAB,

CONTAINING
 A PARTICULAR ACCOUNT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND CHARACTER
 OF THE SIKHS,
 FROM THE GERMAN OF
 BARON CHARLES HÜGEL.

WITH NOTES BY
 MAJOR T. B. JERVIS, F.R.S.

~~~~~  
 Published under the Patronage of the Honourable the Court of  
 Directors of the East India Company.  
 ~~~~~

TOGETHER WITH CHARACTERISTIC ILLUSTRATIONS, AND A MAP OF THOSE
 COUNTRIES CONSTRUCTED BY MR. JOHN ARROWSMITH, FROM THE
 BEST AND MOST RECENT AUTHORITIES.



Method of crossing Rivers in the Panjab.

LONDON :
 JOHN PETHERAM, 71, CHANCERY LANE :
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THE EMPIRE OF EUROPE IS NOW EXTENDED TO THE UTMOST BOUNDS OF THE EARTH, WHERE SEVERAL OF ITS NATIONS HAVE CONQUESTS AND COLONIES. THESE AND MANY MORE ARE THE ADVANTAGES DRAWN FROM THE LABOURS OF THOSE WHO EXPOSE THEMSELVES TO THE DANGERS OF THE VAST OCEAN, AND OF UNKNOWN NATIONS; WHICH THOSE WHO SIT STILL AT HOME ABUNDANTLY REAP IN EVERY KIND; AND THE RELATION OF ONE TRAVELLER IS AN INCENTIVE TO STIR UP ANOTHER TO IMITATE HIM; WHILST THE REST OF MANKIND, IN THEIR ACCOUNTS, WITHOUT STIRRING A FOOT, COMPASS THE EARTH AND SEAS, VISIT ALL COUNTRIES, AND CONVERSE WITH ALL NATIONS.

LOCKE. HISTORY OF NAVIGATION.

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THE EDITOR'S PREFACE.

THE German original of the present publication has deservedly procured for its illustrious author the reputation of a diligent and faithful observer of nature, who possesses the happy talent of expressing his thoughts with a taste and perspicuity which imparts peculiar interest to his narrative. Independent of the entertainment which is derived, by readers of every age, from the varied incidents of personal adventure and foreign travel, the appearance of a work thus recommended, is calculated at the present moment to throw great light on the important question which now occupies the public mind, as to the proper line of policy to be pursued by the Government of India, in relation to the Panjáb; and although the principal personages in the scenes, so strikingly depicted in the author's progress, have been swept away by the hand of death, or the murderous contests for supremacy which have followed each other in quick succession, the country itself and its prominent features, which, in a military point of view, are of primary consideration—the circumstances and constitution, the habits and peculiar character of the mixed population subject to Sikh rule, are still the same, unaffected as to any ulterior purpose by the numerous political changes which have occurred since the death of Ranjít Singh.

The system of disclaiming all interference in the internal affairs of the Native Powers has invariably had the opposite effect to that which was in the contemplation of the Home Authorities, and in the ordinary course of events provoked dissensions, which have occasioned their overthrow and accelerated

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the aggrandizement of dominion so strongly deprecated by the British Legislature, on every ground of humanity and justice. The extension of this mighty Empire, to judge from its history and the experience of modern times, is obviously entailed in the designs of an Allwise Providence, irrespective of any choice or human councils, by the natural impulse of conflicting interests; and the great desideratum seems rather to be, how to bring to the administration of a trust of such magnitude all the energy which should actuate an enlightened Christian Government; how to give to every department of the State that increased efficiency which shall ensure the integrity of our territories on any emergency; in what way best to promote the fullest inquiry into their natural resources and capabilities, and admit these possessions to an equal participation in the commercial privileges which are enjoyed by other colonies of the British crown, without detriment to the interests of the state.

The principal objects of the undertaking are succinctly stated in the Preface. The Introduction further specifies the best authorities to which the oriental scholar may refer for information respecting the former state and history of Kashmír, with a brief notice of the several European travellers who preceded the author. The cost of the original*, independent of the

* The German edition was published at Stuttgart, in four parts, 8vo., at distant intervals, and is procurable in this country at the high price of 2*l.* 16*s.* unbound. The first and third parts comprise the entire narrative, or journal, of which the present volume is a translation; the intermediate part contains a summary account of the ancient and modern history of Kashmír, abridged from Professor H. H. Wilson's papers published in the Transactions of the Asiatic Society; with sundry miscellaneous particulars, geographical and physical; also an account of the productions, resources, and inhabitants of the mountain regions. The fourth number is a sort of glossary and gazetteer, including miscellaneous matters relating to the various political, civil, and military affairs of Government, the history of India, &c.; from all which much useful information may be gleaned.

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THE EDITOR'S PREFACE.

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difficulties of a foreign language, would necessarily preclude a very extensive circulation, and the expensive form* in which Jacquemont's Travels have been published by the Committee of Public Instruction, under the auspices of M. Guizot, will limit the perusal of that work to a very small number of those who are conversant with the French language. Under such circumstances, the present translation, together with the valuable map which accompanies it, by Mr. John Arrowsmith, will form a most acceptable contribution to the geography of Asia, and be welcomed by those who have looked forward to its publication, as an earnest of the selection and style of an extended series, which is in abeyance only for want of proper encouragement. In any case the reader will receive it as an additional proof of that spirit of inquiry which is abroad in the world, of the liberality with which every desire for information is met by the Government of India, and the testimony borne by an impartial spectator to the intervention of British rule, and the management of the East India Company.

With regard to the Orthography, I have been at great pains to ascertain the true names of every geographical object, and rendered them, as well as all Oriental terms, according to the system observed by the Asiatic Society of Calcutta, and the Royal Asiatic and Geographical Societies in this country, in which I have to acknowledge the friendly aid of its three greatest scholars, Professor Horace Hayman Wilson, the Rev. G. C. Renouard, and the Rev. Dr. John Wilson, Honorary President of the Asiatic Society at Bombay. If the reader does not find every word written exactly according to his taste, I crave his

* Jacquemont's Voyage dans l'Inde is published in royal 4to., of which the first and second volume only have yet appeared. The want of plates, or maps, of any sort, renders the details of natural history and general description far less interesting than they otherwise would be to most readers.

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indulgence, and can safely assure him, that it would be far easier to express the varied intonations of the musical notes by literal signs, than the complicated sounds of Oriental alphabets, by the manifold sounds of the English language, varying as Eastern letters do, not only with the great national divisions of languages, but the characteristic distinctions of pastoral, nomade, military, and agricultural pursuits, as if the several avocations of people and tribes had induced peculiarities, which were the true distinguishing tests whereby all were to be traced up to one ancient original. The vowels of Turkey, of Persia, of Arabia, and of India, in one and the same word, *Bokhara*, for instance, are perceptibly different in all, and the interchange and sound of the consonants, the liquids especially, varies indefinitely. Whether we should spell *Mohammedan*, *Turkisthan*, and such like words, according to one or other system, it matters not, provided it be as near as any other to the true pronunciation and mode of spelling. Where uniformity can be attained without any great departure from received usage, it is better to agree to adopt some standard; and although there are objections to Sir William Jones's system, as well as to Gilchrist's—the two principal authorities with Oriental scholars on such subjects—the learned bodies have decided in favour of the former, to which the reader is at once furnished with a perfect key, by remembering that all the vowels are sounded as in the Italian, the accented vowels, *á*, *í*, denoting the broad sounds, and for the rest, the *ch* only supplying the place of *c* before *e* and *i*, the *g* being invariably hard; lastly, the *j* and *z* pronounced simply as in English.

In respect to the notes interspersed through the volume, such as they are, I am alone responsible for them. They were such as an experience of many years' residence in India, and a long acquaintance with the Hindú character, suggested. Many more might have been added with great advantage, and promoted

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some inquiries of much interest. The value of good geographical works, as is the case in an especial manner with respect to Marco Polo's Travels, edited by Mr. Marsden, is, in fact, to elicit inquiries and comparisons—the basis of all exact knowledge. It is in simplicity and originality of thought that Baron Hügel's merit as a traveller chiefly consists; and the playful, unpretending way in which he touches upon any fact gives an expressive picture of a heart naturally thoughtful, but full of generosity, frank, high-minded, and sincere. To appreciate its worth, the original may be consulted; to divert a leisure hour, the present work, which professes to give the spirit rather than a cold servile translation of the German text, may claim a place by the side of Heber's delightful narrative, and be safely recommended to young people. For any presumable claim to public favour in regard of its style, I would advert with grateful recollection to the unwearied solicitude of the accomplished friend whose assistance I have received throughout.

I have reserved the consideration of recent Political events, and a detailed description of the Panjáb, its resources and principal Geographical features, for a future volume, the materials for which have been supplied by those distinguished and intelligent persons who are most competent to form a sound and correct judgment of its relations, capabilities, and prospects.

T. B. JERVIS.

London, 1st November, 1844.

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 Vignette in the title-page, representing the mode of crossing rivers in the Panjáb on a charpái, or cot-frame, supported on inflated skins, and propelled by swimmers.
 The frontier ferry-boat on the Setlej at Bilaspoor (glyphographed).
 Method of crossing the rivers in the Panjáb on inflated skins (glyphographed).
 Remarkable suspension-bridge at Uri, on the frontiers of Kashmír.
 Interview with Kashmír Singh's Díwan, or Minister, at Atok.
 Map of the Panjáb and Kashmír, on a scale of 3½ inches to a degree. By Mr. John Arrowsmith; from the most authentic and recent information.

BARON CHARLES HÜGEL'S PREFACE.

WHETHER Kashmír was that favored spot, where, six thousand years ago, the Almighty Word called the human race into being; whether it was the seat of that Paradise which man forfeited by his disobedience to the first command ever given, or whether, as Hindú mythology pretends, it was there that, countless ages back, the world was again renewed by the creation of the present race, are questions which throw no light either on the history of mankind, or of Kashmír itself. The clearing up of the mystery, indeed, though it could be accomplished, would be of little real importance to the believing mind. Most assuredly there was an earthly Paradise, what matters it *where it was*, is the simple answer of the reasonable many; yet the excusable curiosity of the few is not, therefore, to be too severely judged. If the labour of years be spent in seeking out the birth-place of some one great individual, may we not extend the endeavour to search for the favoured spot trodden by the common progenitor of all? On this subject the valley furnishes no information. It is almost superfluous to observe, that the idea of making any discovery on this point constituted no object in my own researches; that the same fond fancy, nevertheless, which has persuaded even the Hindú, surrounded on every side by the magnificent scenery of his native land, that Kashmír was in very truth, the Paradise of the newly awakened world, does invest it with a peculiar charm, is an undoubted fact, and the indifferent and most apathetic traveller is full of expectancy when first he views this famous and lovely valley outspread before his eyes. Whatever anticipations I myself had formed of my visit, will be fully and honestly nar-

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rated in the following pages; I have endeavoured to describe the valley of Kashmír and its inhabitants according to the best of my ability and judgment; nor have I suffered myself to be led away from this design, either by the fascinations of the romantic, or the love of the marvellous.

Nothing seems so unaccountable to the traveller from far distant lands, after a brief sojourn in a place where he looked for nothing but the wild adventures which crowded his waking dreams, as his own want of surprise at surrounding things; he discovers here, as everywhere, that in the manners of all nations there is a certain harmonious congruity which, in spite of national principles, is founded on the same universal laws of nature. After the first impression has passed away, which exaggerated every object, he beholds beings like himself, actuated by the same motives, animated with the same lofty spirit, equally moved by like affections and enmities; he no longer feels, that he differs from those around him, since there, as elsewhere, the sports of childhood, the industry of man, the tenderness of woman, and the caution of age, remind him that his fellow men are all formed in one common image; whether they be the Hindús, whose gentle qualities are not sufficiently appreciated, or the New Zealander, of whose nature we as yet know only the darkest side. Thus it is throughout the earth. The Múselmán buries his dead in gardens rich with fragrant flowers, and under marble tombs; while the Parsí abandons those whom he has loved most fondly to the rapacious vulture and the inclement elements: the Chinese address their gods in monosyllables; the fire-worshippers turn in silent adoration towards the ocean and the sun: the Jetí of Gújrát, in the one case, covers his mouth with a cloth, lest he should inhale and thus rob some minute creature of life; the New Zealander, on the other, will devour the very remains of his own fellow-creature. Yet one and all these, so opposite, but strongly-marked, charac-

teristics belong to men who have many thoughts and feelings in common with ourselves; and the Vedah, the solitary ape-like creature of Ceylon, who flies to trees to avoid us, and scarcely bears the semblance of humanity, is perhaps the only class from whom civilized man turns away with disgust; with him we seem to have nothing in common, we gaze on his appearance with astonishment, and the traveller, in recording his existence, sighs to think of the depths of degradation into which the human race has been plunged by sin.

With what prolonged delight do we dwell on the breathing form of an animated creature, after amusing ourselves awhile with its picture; precisely such is the interest called forth by a foreign people; it commences, in truth, when the first impressions of strangeness have worn off. It is the different aspects under which human nature is viewed that exercise the attention of the reflecting traveller. Superficial observers are pleased only with objects so long as they have the charm of novelty. The interest in the latter ceases, in fact, where that for the first commences; and this feeling of hopeful expectation can alone compensate for all the discomforts of tedious adventure, for years of travel, and that depressing sense of frequent unbroken solitude, amid strangers, which fills the heart, constantly looking forward for something to occupy it, with unavailing anxiety.

It is often a problem of great difficulty to solve, in what the peculiarities of nations consist and whence they arise; whether from the religious or civil laws in force among them. It may be either of these; for we know that laws do operate powerfully on the daily current of events, and that the very same system of religion will exercise a mighty influence over the minds of nations whose manners and habits of thinking are widely different.

It cannot admit of a question that the changes of government which have taken place in Kashmír must have materially

affected many original characteristics of the people. Subjugated in succession by Mohammedans from Central Asia, who subverted their ancient and patriarchal institutions and government; by the Emperors of Delhi, who brought among them, in their search after new pleasures, a voluptuous and luxurious court abandoned to pomp and prodigality; by the fierce Afghans; and finally, by the half-civilized Sikhs, who now dwell in those long-deserted imperial halls, what can remain of originality to these inhabitants of the valley, after so many changes of rulers, each in turn eager to destroy the works of his predecessor? It is, however, important to notice, that Hindúism, once obeyed, is hardly ever to be eradicated from the minds of its followers, even though they may be compelled to exchange their faith for another; nay, even though their conversion may seem purely voluntary and unconnected with political events.

It needs no argument to prove that the civilization of a people depends on a thousand contingencies of place and time, on the mingled influences of external and internal circumstances favourable to its development. Hence the statesman and legislator will exercise little power over institutions and customs unless he has well weighed the causes which have produced what he desires to change or modify; nor will his laws ever endure to after times unless they are framed so as to harmonize with the present state of feeling among those for whose government they are intended.

The following pages contain materials for much interesting inquiry on this subject; they were written during a journey which detained me some years from Europe, and as the country of the Sikhs with which Kashmír is now incorporated, must necessarily be frequently introduced to the reader's notice while describing it, I resolved to give some account of a kingdom which, as being the only state of importance adjoining British India, cannot fail to interest Europe in general.