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978-1-108-05584-0 - The History of India, as Told by Its Own Historians:

The Muhammadan Period: Volume 2

Henry Miers Elliot Edited by John Dowson

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The History of India, as Told by Its Own Historians

This extensive eight-volume work was first published between 1867 and 1877 by the linguist John Dowson (1820–81) from the manuscripts of the colonial administrator and scholar Sir Henry Miers Elliot (1808–53). Before his death, hoping to bolster British colonial ideology, Elliot had intended to evaluate scores of Arabic and Persian historians of India, believing that his translations would demonstrate the violence of the Muslim rulers and 'make our native subjects more sensible of the immense advantages accruing to them under the mildness and the equity of our rule'. Volume 2 begins with accounts of the earliest inroads of the Ghaznavid conquerors, tracing the rise to power of the Muslims in India. It includes *History of the World Conqueror* by Ata-Malik Jovayni (1226–83), one of the main sources on the rapid sweep of Genghis Khan's armies through Asia. The volume closes in 1257 during the reign of Nasir-ud-din Mahmud (1246–66).

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VOLUME 2

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THE
HISTORY OF INDIA,
AS TOLD
BY ITS OWN HISTORIANS.

THE MUHAMMADAN PERIOD.

EDITED FROM THE POSTHUMOUS PAPERS
OF THE LATE

SIR H. M. ELLIOT, K.C.B.,

EAST INDIA COMPANY'S BENGAL CIVIL SERVICE,

BY

PROFESSOR JOHN DOWSON, M.R.A.S.,

STAFF COLLEGE, SANDHURST.

VOL. II.

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STEPHEN AUSTIN



PRINTER, HERTFORD.

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P R E F A C E .

IN this volume the history of Muhammadan rule in India is commenced. The first volume was, from the nature of the materials, introductory in its character; this opens with the accounts of the earliest inroads of the Ghaznvide conquerors. The copious extracts which it brings together from the oldest and most approved of the native historians supply ample means for tracing the rise and progress of that power which was destined to bring the whole peninsula under its sway, and to stand for seven centuries a conspicuous and brilliant example of the strength and weakness, the crimes, vices, and occasional virtues of Musulmán despotism.

The history is here carried down to the year 1260 A.D., embracing the consecutive annals of the Ghaznvides, the Ghorians, and the Slave Kings, as far as the end of the reign of Násiru-d dín. The lives of the other Slave Kings will be drawn from the *Tárikh-i Fíroz Sháhí* of Zíáu-d dín Barní, which, as its name implies, is a work more particularly devoted to the reign of Fíroz

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Sháh, and must, from the date of its composition, occupy a place in the next volume.

The portion of history over which this volume extends may be considered as nearly complete, though some scattered notices of the period embraced will be drawn occasionally from later writers, and Khondamír's account of the Ghaznivides will appear hereafter as the principal extract from the *Habibu-s Siyar*.

Since the publication of the first volume of this edition, some animadversions have appeared in print upon the absence of any recognition of the assistance rendered to Sir H. M. Elliot in the preparation of the materials for this work; and one or two special claims have been made for acknowledgments of aid contributed and work done. The Editor is informed, by those best acquainted with the circumstances, that Sir H. M. Elliot was especially anxious to acquit himself of all obligation for assistance so rendered to him; but still, care has been and will be taken to acknowledge fully every contribution deserving of notice. It so happened, however, that the whole of the matter in the first volume, with the exception of two anonymous translations, was the work of Sir H. M. Elliot himself, his munshis, or the present Editor.

Sir H. M. Elliot was assisted by many friends, both English and native, in his search for rare works, and

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notably by Dr. Sprenger; but at this distance of time it is impossible to do more than make a general acknowledgment of the fact. The notices, bibliographical and biographical, all appear to have been written by Sir H. M. Elliot himself, with the exception of those of the geographers and a few distinguished by brackets, which are the work of the Editor. There remain the translations, and it is in these that the greatest aid was received. Many of the contributed translations are by English officers, both civil and military; and many more by munshis. They differ greatly in merit; some are valuable, others require the Editor's incessant attention from beginning to end,¹ and in two instances it has been found necessary to entirely reject the work done. Under these circumstances, the Editor has resolved to make no general acknowledgment, but to give the translator's name whenever that name carries with it sufficient assurance, or when a translation proves to be accurate, and in want of little or no editorial revision. By this arrangement, the translator will bear the responsibility of his own work; and the extent and value of the aid rendered will be fully understood and appreciated by the reader. In cases of translations which require to be

¹ In pages 70 and 88 will be found two short passages showing the quality of one of these translations—a fair specimen of many others.

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checked and amended throughout, no name has been or will be given. The original translator cannot lay claim to the revised work, and there are few who would like their names to appear as the authors of translations obnoxious to correction.

To set this question entirely at rest, the Editor here gives a complete list of the translations which appear in the first and in the present volume, with the names of those who are responsible for them. From this it will be seen that no one has any real ground of complaint. The list is confined to the translations, because all else is the work of Sir H. M. Elliot or the Editor, except a few contributions specially and scrupulously recognized where they appear.

VOL. I.

GEOGRAPHERS.

The bibliographical notices are by the Editor, excepting the notice of the *Ashkálu-l Bilád*, No. V., which is chiefly by Sir H. M. Elliot.

- I.—*Salsilatu-t Tawárikh*—Translated from Reinaud's French version by the Editor.
- II. III.—*Ibn Khurdádba and Mas'údí*—Translations printed in the old volume revised by Editor.
- IV.—*Istakhrí*—Editor.
- V.—*Ashkálu-l Bilád*—Partially revised by Editor.
- VI.—*Súru-l Buldán*—None.
- VII.—*Jámi'u-t Tawárikh*—The old translation revised after a collation of the various MSS. by the Editor.
- VIII.—*Idrisí*—Translated from Jaubert's French version by the Editor.
- IX.—*Kazwíní*—Editor.

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HISTORIANS.

- I.—Mujmalu-t Tawáríkh—Sir H. M. E. and the Editor.
 II.—Biládurí—Sir H. M. E. and the Editor.
 III.—Chach-náma—A munshi, revised by the Editor.
 IV.—Ma'súmí—Page 237 to 240 by Sir H. M. E., all the rest
 by Editor.
 V.—Tárikh-i Táhirí—Lt. Perkins.¹
 VI.—Beg-Lár-náma } A munshi, revised by the Editor.
 VII.—Tarkhán-náma }
 VIII.—Tuhfatu-l Kirám—Anonymous, but revised by the Editor
 and found to be accurate.
 Appendix.—Sir H. M. E., excepting where brackets show the
 Editor's work.

VOL. II.

- I.—Tárikhu-l Hind } Sir H. M. E.
 II.—'Utbi }
 III.—Baihakí—From page 61 to 129 by a munshi, and although
 said to have been revised, it required very extensive cor-
 rection by the Editor; page 129 to 154 by Sir H. M. E.
 IV.—Jámi'u-l Hikáyát—A munshi, whose style had been improved
 by an Englishman, but the translation needed a thorough
 revision by the Editor.
 V.—Nizámu-t Tawárikh—Sir H. M. E.
 VI.—Kámilu-t Tawárikh—Editor.
 VII.—Táju-l Ma-ásir—Sir H. M. E.
 VIII.—Tabakát-i Násirí—Page 266 to 359, a munshi, revised and
 sundry long gaps filled up by the Editor; page 360 to 383² by
 the Editor.
 IX.—Jahán-Kushá—Sir H. M. E.

¹ This translation bore no name, but the Editor has reason for believing it to be the work of Lt. Perkins. It was checked by the Editor and found to be very correct.

² Translations of this and of sundry other portions of the *Tabakát-i Násirí* had been made by an English officer; but the Editor, with every desire to make use of them and save himself labour, was obliged to reject them. Prefixed to the translations were the following notes, the later one written after Sir H. M. Elliot's death. These of themselves will show that no harsh judgment has been exercised:—

“This translation is imperfect. By allowing myself great latitude in guessing at the author's meaning, supplying words, sometimes whole passages, I have succeeded in making it appear a somewhat connected narrative. Had I marked in the margin

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The various Notes are the work of Sir H. M. Elliot, excepting where the brackets show the Editor's additions, or special references are made to the sources of information, as in Notes B. and E.

Note C.—The translations of the extracts were made by munshis, and have been revised by the Editor.

Note F.—Majma'i Wasá'yá—A munshi, unrevised.

Nigáristán,
 Zínatu-l Majális, } A munshi, revised by the Editor.

Note G.—Mir-át-i Mas'údí—Translated by R. B. Chapman, Esq., B.C.S.

Note H.—Extracts translated by Sir H. M. E.

all the passages which were doubtful, I find I should have to mark the whole translation almost; I have therefore only marked those which are more especially obscure, and when the meaning appeared to be of more than usual importance.

“N. B.—This translation was done and the remarks in the margin made under the impression that it would be looked over by Sir H. M. Elliot.”

PORTRAIT.

The Portrait prefixed to this volume has been copied from a sketch made by an amateur on the occasion of one of Lord Dalhousie's official receptions. As chance would have it, this is the only likeness of Sir Henry Elliot extant, otherwise, neither the formal costume nor the profile face would have recommended themselves as best calculated to convey an effective representation of the author.

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ERRATA.

- Page 76, line 3 from the bottom, substitute "Manjurán" for "the wine-drinkers (mai-khurán)."—A subsequent passage shows the true reading.
- Page 129.—For "July, 1033" read "July, 1034."
- “ 157.—For "(This last contains only) *the first two kisms*," substitute
"— part of the first kism as far as Chapter 25, where it ends abruptly."
- „ 204.—For No. "IV." read "V."
- „ 249.—To note add, "See Vol. I. p. 445."
- „ 276.—In note 2, for "words" read "word."
- „ 485.—For Appendix "E" read "F."