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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 6 covers the death of Akbar in 1605 and includes extracts from the *Akbarnama* of Abul Fazl (1551–1602), the emperor's vizier and court historian. It also covers the reign of Jahangir (1569–1627) with extracts from the *Jahangirnama*, his own memoirs. The appendices include a translation of the introduction to Ferishta's early seventeenth-century history.

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VOLUME 6

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, 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/9781108055888

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2013

This edition first published 1875

This digitally printed version 2013

ISBN 978-1-108-05588-8 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.

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THE
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AS TOLD
BY ITS OWN HISTORIANS.

THE MUHAMMADAN PERIOD.

THE POSTHUMOUS PAPERS
OF THE LATE
SIR H. M. ELLIOT, K.C.B.,
EDITED AND CONTINUED
BY
PROFESSOR JOHN DOWSON, M.R.A.S.,
STAFF COLLEGE, SANDHURST.

VOL. VI.

LONDON:
TRÜBNER AND CO., 57 AND 59, LUDGATE HILL.
1875.

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STEPHEN AUSTIN AND SONS,



PRINTERS, HERTFORD.

P R E F A C E.

THE reign of Akbar, which the Fifth Volume left unfinished, is in this volume brought to a close. Copious Extracts have been drawn from the great *Akbar-náma* of Abú-l Fazl, a work as yet but little known to the European reader except by vague reputation. Some Extracts relating to the closing years of Akbar's reign have also been taken from the continuation of the *Akbar-náma* by 'Ináyatu-lla. Another and smaller *Akbar-náma* by Shaikh Illáhdád, otherwise called Faizí Sirhindí, has also been laid under contribution; but it does not fulfil the expectations which had been formed of it, as it proves to be little more than a compilation from the *Tabakát-i Akbarí* and the greater work of Abú-l Fazl. Some curious and interesting personal details have been derived from the Memoirs of Asad Beg, an officer in Akbar's service. His statements place the Imperial government in an unfavourable light, and are far from exalting the personal character of the monarch. The original writers upon the life and times of Akbar may now be considered as exhausted, for their writings have all been diligently searched, and there cannot remain much to be yet gleaned.

A considerable portion of the volume is occupied with notices published by Sir H. Elliot in his original Volume I., and all the contents of that publication have now been re-printed.

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The history of the reign of Jahángír depends almost entirely on the Memoirs written by himself or under his direction; for although there are other professed historians of the reign, they mainly draw their information from the Memoirs, and rarely venture upon an independent statement. It has long been known that there were different works, claiming to be Auto-biographies of Jahángír. The copious Extracts which are given in this volume leave little room for doubt as to which must have been the more approved and authentic version.

The Note in the Appendix, on the Early Use of Gunpowder in India, is a reprint, with some alterations and additions by Sir H. Elliot himself. The Comments on the Institutes of Jahángír are entirely his own work. Two other Notes were prepared under his direction and superintendence. Sir H. Elliot's notice of Firishta's great history appears in this volume, and the Editor has taken the opportunity of supplying an oft-expressed want, by giving a complete translation of the Introduction to that voluminous work.

The following is a list of the articles in this volume with the names of the respective writers:—

- XLII.—Akbar-náma of Abú-l Fazl—Editor.
 XLIII.—Takmilá-i Akbar-náma—"Lieutenant" Chalmers.
 XLIV.—Akbar-náma of Faizí Sirhindí—Editor and "Ensign"
 F. Mackenzie.
 XLV.—Wáki'át-i Shaikh Faizí—"Lieutenant" Prichard.
 XLVI.—Wikáya of Asad Beg—B. W. Chapman, Esq., B.C.S.
 XLVII.—Táríkh-i Hakkí—Reprint from old volume.
 XLVIII.—Zubdatu-t Tawáríkh ,, ,,
 XLIX.—Rauzatu-t Táhírín ,, ,,
 L.—Muntakhabu-t Tawáríkh ,, ,,

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 LIII.—*Anfa'u-l Akhbár* " "
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 LV.—*Wáki'át-i Jahángírí*—Sir H. M. Elliot, Editor, and others.
 LVI.—*Tatimma-i Wáki'át-i Jahángírí*—Editor.
 LVII.—*Ikbál-náma*—Editor.
 LVIII.—*Ma-ásir-i Jahángírí*—Sir H. M. Elliot and Editor.
 LIX.—*Intikháb-i Jahángír Sháhí*—Sir H. M. Elliot and a *munshí*.
 LX.—*Subh-i Sádik*—Sir H. M. Elliot.

APPENDIX.

- A.—Early Use of Gunpowder in India—Reprint from old volume.
 B.—Extracts from a work of 'Abdu-l Hakk Dehlawí—Major
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 C.—Comments on the Institutes of Jahángír—Sir H. M. Elliot.
 D.—Translations from *Shash Fat'h-i Kángrá*—A *munshí* and Sir
 H. M. Elliot.
 E.—Translation of the Introduction to *Firishta's History*—Editor.
 F.—Bibliographical Notices—Reprint from old volume.

ADDENDUM TO VOL. IV.

The following paragraph ought to have been inserted in page 228 at the end of Sir H. M. Elliot's notice of the *Memoirs of Bábar*. But in arranging the fragmentary copy of the article, part of which was MS. and part print, the passage was accidentally omitted—

"Almost all the above remarks have been taken from Elphinstone's *India*, vol. ii. pp. 119, 122, and the *Edinburgh Review*, No. xci. Article 2."

ERRATA IN VOL. VI.

Page 8, six lines from bottom, for "translation," read "translations."
 ,, 181. Note at foot, read: "Some Extracts from another work," and see p. 483.

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