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Emily Eden Edited by Eleanor Eden
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Letters from India

Emily Eden's childhood prepared her well for her role as companion to her brother, the Governor-General of India. Outwardly all that a minor aristocrat should be, the observant and sharp-tongued Eden (1797–1869) never censored her letters for the sake of diplomacy. This two-volume collection of letters, edited by her niece Eleanor Eden, was published posthumously in 1872 after the success of her 1866 collection, *Up the Country* (also reissued in this series). Volume 1 begins in England, with an account of preparations (including lessons in Hindi) for the voyage and subsequent seven-year stay in India, about which Emily was originally apprehensive. In spite of suffering from the heat (and from considerable boredom at her formal duties as Lord Auckland's hostess) she produces a series of light-hearted and engaging letters to friends and family, from 'At Sea, Nowhere in Particular' to the Governor-General's palatial residence in Calcutta.

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Letters from India

VOLUME 1

EMILY EDEN
EDITED BY ELEANOR EDEN



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LETTERS FROM INDIA

BY

THE HON. EMILY EDEN

Author of

'Up the Country' 'Semi-Detached House'
&c.

EDITED BY HER NIECE

IN TWO VOLUMES

VOL. I.



LONDON

RICHARD BENTLEY AND SON

Publishers in Ordinary to Her Majesty

1872

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LONDON : PRINTED BY
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AND PARLIAMENT STREET

P R E F A C E.

‘UP THE COUNTRY’ became so popular a book, that the authoress was repeatedly urged to publish more of her Letters from India.

Unfortunately, her health was for many years before her death, in so precarious a state that she was quite unequal to the task of preparing these Letters for the press.

I had indeed begun to arrange them during her life-time and under her directions, but from various circumstances was unable to accomplish this.

My Aunt frequently, however, expressed her desire that I should continue the work at some future period.

It is therefore, with the feeling that I am simply carrying out her intentions, that I offer

these volumes to the public, hoping that a sequel to her former work will not be unacceptable to those who read and liked 'Up the Country.'

I fear that many mistakes in spelling the Hindustani words and names may have arisen from my ignorance of that language.

I have endeavoured as much as possible to omit all remarks of a personal nature which might be painful to any of Miss Eden's former friends in Calcutta; and in order to render the narrative more complete, I have inserted several letters written by my aunt, Frances Eden, to one of her oldest friends, who has kindly lent them to me for this purpose.

Some of these Letters, relating to the voyage out, and the first arrival in Calcutta, have already appeared in the 'Temple Bar Magazine,' but they have since been revised and corrected.

ELEANOR EDEN.

BOURNEMOUTH: *November*, 1871.

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