

INDIA

ANCIENT AND MODERN.

GEOGRAPHICAL, HISTORICAL, POLITICAL, SOCIAL,
until 1850-52 AND RELIGIOUS;

See p 285-353
WITH A PARTICULAR ACCOUNT OF THE STATE AND
PROSPECTS OF CHRISTIANITY.

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POPULATION.

India appears to have been a populous part of the world from its earliest authentic history. It probably had as large a population 1,500 and 2,000 years ago and even before that time, as it has had for 200 and 300 years past since it became known to the nations of Europe. A census of Bengal and of some other parts subject to the English has been taken, but there has never been any census of the whole of India, and so the population of all the country must be a matter of estimation. Hamilton in his large work on India has given a table of the different provinces, exhibiting the population of each, as enumerated and estimated, and makes the total to be 134,000,000. The authors of the *Encyclopediæ Britannica* in an ably written and carefully prepared article on Hindustan, have also estimated the population at 134,000,000. Mr. McCulloch in his geography estimated the population at 131,750,000. Elphinstone in his late work on India estimates the population by the best information he could obtain, at 140,000,000. These estimates were made before the conquest of Scinde and the Punjab. In the debates, reports, etc., in Parliament when the renewal of the East India Company's charter, or the future government of India, was lately under consideration, the entire population was assumed to be 150,000,000. This number included Scinde and the Punjab. Of this population some estimates make one eighth and others make one tenth part to be Mohammedans.—A more particular description of the different classes comprising this great population, will be given in another part of this work.

ANIMALS, ETC.

The elephant, either wild or domestic, is found in all parts of India. In their wild state they are found chiefly in the forests on the Malabar Coast, in Assam and Rajpootana. An elephant at his birth is about 3 feet high, and is said to be from 20 to 30 years in attaining his full growth. Their common height is 9 and 10 feet. In some extreme cases they are said to reach 11 feet. They were formerly in great demand among the native

powers for purposes of state, and were used in war. In the army of Porus, who resisted Alexander the Great in his invasion of India, were 200 war elephants. When Mahmoud of Ghizni invaded India, Jypal the Raja of Lahore came against him with a large army in which were "350 chain elephants." Ferishta says that Mahmoud of Ghizni had at one time 1,300 war elephants, obtained chiefly from India, and that Acber near the close of his reign had 5,000, which appears not improbable considering his great wealth and power. The changes which have taken place in the political state and government of the country, and in the tactics and instruments of war since the invention of fire-arms, have greatly diminished the number and value of elephants. Lions are not unfrequent in the north-western provinces. The male differs from the African lion, in having no mane. "The lion," says Bishop Heber, "which was long supposed to be unknown in India, is now ascertained to exist in considerable numbers in the districts of Saharunpore and Loodiana." Tigers are found in all parts of the country. The largest and fiercest tigers in the world are found in the lower part of Bengal in the large forests and jungles near the mouths of the Ganges and Brahmaputra. These are often called the royal Bengal tigers. The hunting of tigers was formerly a favorite sport of the emperors and princes of the country. It is a favorite and often very dangerous sport of Europeans. Leopards are common and are large and fierce. The rhinoceros is found in the forests in the eastern provinces of Bengal. The camel is frequent in all parts of India, and is much used for riding and carrying burdens. Horses are very common, but generally small. The best horses in India are brought from Arabia and Persia. Buffaloes are domesticated and kept for milk. Cattle are abundant. Bears, wolves, wild dogs, and hogs are abundant in some provinces; so also are antelopes and deer of various kinds; also hyenas, monkeys, porcupines, jackals, foxes, etc. Sheep and goats are kept in great abundance. The wool of sheep is coarse, generally black and of little value. The English have made repeated efforts to improve the quality of the wool of the Indian sheep, but with little effect. It has been found that if sheep with fine wool are taken from cold climates to India, their wool soon becomes coarse like the indigenous sheep and so is of little value.

Cross-breeding has not yet produced the results which were expected. The celebrated Cashmere shawls are made of the fine hair or wool of goats peculiar to that country.

Of serpents there are many kinds; the anaconda, or boa constrictor, grows to a great size in the forests; the much dreaded *cobra*, or *cobra de capello*, is very frequent; there are many other kinds of poisonous snakes. Scorpions of different kinds are frequent. Mosquitoes are so numerous and venomous that it is necessary in nearly all parts of the country in the hot months, and in many places through the year, to sleep under gauze curtains. Vultures, eagles, buzzards, peacocks, ducks, etc., abound in different parts of the country. Fish are abundant, and fishermen are a numerous class on the sea-shore and along the large rivers. Alligators, turtles, etc., are found in the creeks and rivers.

MINERALS, ETC.

There are no gold or silver mines now wrought to any extent in India. Golconda was once celebrated for its diamonds, but these mines are not now wrought, and diamonds are seldom found. Cornelian and agates are found and exported in considerable quantities. Iron ore is abundant in several places, but the want or expense of fuel prevents these mines being wrought to any considerable extent, and so the country is chiefly supplied with iron from Europe. Marble is abundant in Rajpootana and rock salt in the Punjab. Saltpetre is produced in great quantities in Bengal, and much is exported to the European and American markets. Coal has been found in several places in Bengal, and is coming into extensive use. It has also been discovered on the banks of the Nerbudda, but for want of means of transportation it has been but little used. The railroads which have been projected and are now in the process of construction, will pass through these coal beds. The coal will then be available for manufactures and commerce, and its use for these purposes will form a new era in the history of India.

Cotton is indigenous and is produced in abundance over several provinces. Its cultivation might be extended almost indefinitely. The sugar-cane is cultivated, and large quantities of sugar are exported. Indigo and silk are produced and