



OVERLOOKING HUGLI RIVER AND SHIPPING FROM INTERIOR OF
FORT WILLIAM, CALCUTTA.

drunk). I assured him I could see that, and ordered him to go and not show his face until sober. Next morning he appeared with a sad countenance, full of apologies for his condition of overnight.

When I returned his "papers" he admitted they were not his own but borrowed for the occasion. On telling my experience to an officer who was about to return to England, he strongly recommended his bearer, who had been with him over five years. Ontali, I liked from the first, the only difficulty was he could not speak a word of English, and I knew very little Hindustani, but he quickly understood what I wanted and did his best to carry out my wishes. He was with me over seven years, and a truer or more kindly hearted man never served another. His faithful, loving service will ever cause me to think kindly of the land and the people to which he belonged. Next in importance to the bearer stands the *khansamah*, or cook, who in addition to his culinary duties, does also the marketing, out of which he generally contrives to "feather his nest." He has a running account with the mem sahib (lady of the house) which in the interest of her purse and peace of mind she should check daily. My *khansamah*, like most of his class, was a Mohammedan, as also the *khitmatgar*, or table-servant. The Indian *dhobie*, or washerman, is a pastmaster in the art of reducing linen to things of shreds and tatters; his

method is simplicity itself. Having collected his bundle of soiled linen, he betakes himself with his donkey to the nearest stream or tank; if there is a projecting rock handy to the place, so much the better, as it will save the trouble of collecting some boulders and placing them in position. These preliminaries being satisfactorily arranged he begins; laying hold of a garment that has been soaking in the water, he swings it aloft and brings it down with a strong whack on the stones, uttering at the same time a loud grunting kind of whoop which sounds like "Europe." Buttons may fly, edges may become frayed, but the *dhobie* whacks and grunts on.

The *bhisti* is another useful servant, whose duty it is to carry water for all purposes. His water-bag is made from the entire skin of a goat; it is attached to a wide belt worn over the shoulder. The *bhisti* will not allow any person of inferior caste to pollute his *mussack*, or water-skin with a touch; should a thirsty one desire a drink, he has to kneel and place his hands under his mouth like a scoop when the *bhisti* lets a thin stream of water trickle into them. There are several other servants whose duties I need not particularize, each with special work to perform. With such a division of duties, requiring so many servants, the rate of wages is consequently low. With the exception of an occasional present from the employer of some article