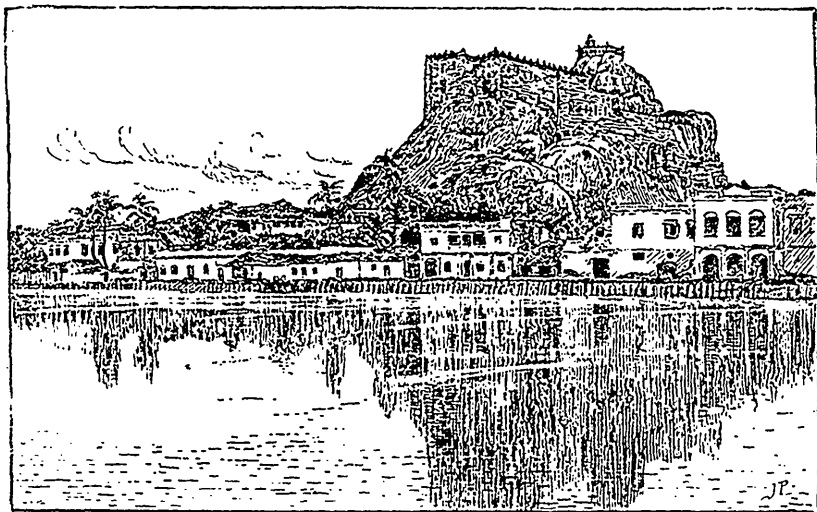


INDIA: ITS TEMPLES, ITS PALACES, AND ITS PEOPLE.

BY W. S. CAINE, M.P.*

XIII.



THE ROCK OF TRICHINOPOLI.

TRICHINOPOLI is, after Madras, the largest city in the Presidency. It is a place of historic interest. It figures in the traditions of the South Indian dynasties for five centuries B.C., and was an important centre, and sometimes capital, during the whole of the dynasties of the Pandyan kings. Towards the close of the 16th century, it fell under the dominion of the Nayakan kings of Madura. The greater portion of the fort, and most of the city itself, was built during the reign of the first king, Viswanatha. Choka Nayakan about 100 years afterwards removed his seat of government from Madura to Trichinopoly, erecting the building now known as the Nawab's palace.

It was besieged by the French in 1751, who were drawn off from its walls by the brilliant capture of Arcôt by Clive. Every popular history of India gives an account of the famous siege of Trichinopoly.

The great rock of Trichinopoly is a mass of gneiss, rising abruptly out of the plain, like a huge boulder, to a height of 273

* *Picturesque India*. By W. S. CAINE, M.P. 8vo, pp. 606. London: George Routledge & Sons. Toronto: William Briggs.