

Himalaya Mountains, which rise to a height in some places of 29,000 feet, and stretch for a distance of 1,500 miles along its northern frontier. Its length from north to south is over 1,900 miles, and its breadth from east to west, where it is widest, is nearly as great. India is thus equal to the whole of Europe without Russia. It forms a continent rather than a single country, and presents every variety of scenery and climate, from the highest mountains in the world, with summits robed in perpetual snow, to river deltas, only a few inches above the level of the sea and scorched with the most fiery tropical heat.

"The population of India amounts to over 254,000,000—equal to that of all Europe, without Russia, and more than double what Gibbon estimated the Roman Empire to contain in its palmy days. Of these, over 200,000,000, or about four-fifths, reside in those Provinces directly under the British Government, and the remainder in those States under subordinate native rulers. Among them are spoken ninety-eight languages, with a much larger number of dialects. In religion over fifty millions are Mohammedans, and a million and three-quarters Christians, of whom the majority are Roman Catholics, leaving 200,000,000 of heathen."

The British East India Company, though formed in 1600, had up to the middle of the last century only six factories scattered over the peninsula. The real beginning of English political ascendancy was in 1757, when on the banks of the Indus, where the foot of an Alexander had faltered, a merchant's clerk conquered an empire. With three thousand troops, on the Plains of Plassey, Robert Clive routed an army of sixty thousand and laid the foundations of our Indian Empire of 250,000,000 souls. The almost uniform success of the English Company attracted alliances with the native chiefs, and gradually the British rule became extended over nearly the whole country. Not all the annexations can be justified, yet on the whole this vast extension of power has been a providential responsibility which could not be avoided.

We shall have occasion to speak often of an Indian bungalow. We, therefore, pause to describe it. A bungalow still forms the

engravings which will illustrate this series of papers, and also for permission to draw upon Mr. Caine's magnificent volume for most of the descriptive text that will accompany these engravings. Mr. Caine's book contains two large folding maps of Northern and Southern India, prepared by W. and A. K. Johnston, and has two hundred and sixty engravings, many of them full page. For those who wish to have full account of the entire country, in a single volume, we commend this book as best within our knowledge.—ED.