

nearly all, the principal questions submitted to his consideration during the forty-five years of his public service. In this respect there is a completeness about the present collection which I believe would not have been much enhanced if the dimensions of the work had been greatly extended.

Except in one or two especial cases, when I have desired to place beside each other, two or more papers bearing on the same subject, perhaps illustrating some particular chapter of Metcalfe's career, the arrangement of the first and the third parts of the collection is strictly chronological, according to the date of composition. In the second part I have thought it more expedient to classify the Council Minutes—placing in separate sections the Military and Political, the Revenue and Judicial Papers; and so on. The first and third parts have more of autobiographical interest than the second, for they relate mainly to circumstances with which the writer was personally and actively concerned; but perhaps the second part, devoted to minutes written at a time when Sir Charles Metcalfe's duties, as a member of the Supreme Government, involved the consideration of the whole range of Indian Government, political and administrative, will be considered of the greatest abstract importance. It is, however, that which necessarily most imperfectly represents the extent of Sir Charles Metcalfe's literary activity. The work of a member of Council is emphatically pen-work, and the writer of these papers addressed himself earnestly to the consideration of almost every question that came before him.

With regard to the papers themselves a few words may be said. The selection of them has been influenced by various considerations. I can hardly hope that it is altogether such as Lord Metcalfe himself would have made, but I have endeavoured, to the utmost of my ability, to approximate to such a consummation. It has been my object to impart as much variety as possible to the collection. Some of the papers are historical; some disquisitional; some are given for the sake of the facts, others for the sake of the arguments they contain; some as illustrations of the character or career of the writer;