

## PREFACE TO NEW EDITION.

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A FEW lines will suffice to explain in what respects this edition of the "Life of Lord Metcalfe" differs from the work as originally published.

The earlier part of the work is considerably compressed. This has been effected, without detriment to the completeness of the biography, by the omission of some passages of explanatory history and of some letters discussing the events narrated in those passages. As Metcalfe at that period—I mean, at the time of the first Mahratta war—held only a subordinate position, it is possible that in the original work those events were too much elaborated, and Metcalfe's opinions respecting them too minutely illustrated in his correspondence. At all events this was the opinion of some friendly critics—in spite of my anticipatory protest in the preface to the first edition; and, as I have since gone over much of the same ground, and with better justification, in the "Life of Sir John Malcolm," who was really *pars magna* of the first Mahratta war, I willingly defer to the