

mixed up with graver details—herein lay one of my chief difficulties; a dry statistical work, or abstract history of bygone events, would have obtained few perusers at the present day, and the main object I had in view—namely to stimulate the curiosity—and attract the minds of the British public towards the Colonies—would have been defeated; I chose, therefore, to incur rather the charge of frivolity than lose the opportunity of doing good—I preferred gilding the pill when I could even thus minister to the welfare of my country.

Ere I close this introduction, let me again entreat public attention to the state of Hindostan, not only for the sake of the Hindoos, but also as regards the prosperity of Britain. It is suicidal for England to persevere in her present commercial policy towards India; by our past measures we have beggared the best customer that our merchants, manufacturers and traders had ever presented to them; for example, estimating the sum of money drawn from British India for the last 30 years at £3,000,000 per annum, it amounts at 12 per cent. (the Indian rate of interest) compound interest, to £723,997,971 Sterling; or if we calculate it at £2,000,000 per annum for 50 years—the abstraction of capital from Hindostan amounts to the almost incredible sum of *eight thousand four hundred million pounds Sterling!* (£8,400,000,000).*

No country, however rich in territory, fertile in resources, or industrious and numerous in population, could withstand the desolating influence of such a constant and accelerating drain on its circulating medium and wealth;—we see its results

* Strictly speaking, the actual withdrawal of capital in the 50 years is £100,000,000; but had that vast sum been left in India, it would have 'fructified' in the pockets of the Hindoos, and produced as great, if not a greater result than that mentioned in the text.