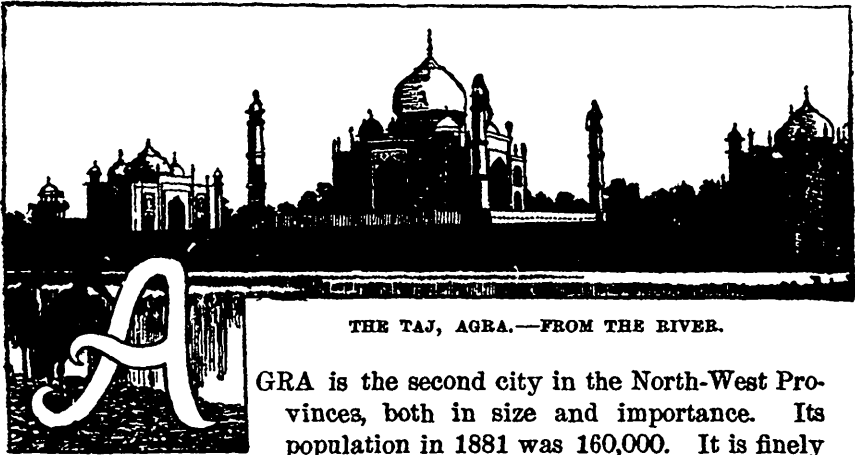


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INDIA: ITS TEMPLES, ITS PALACES, AND ITS PEOPLE.*

V.



THE TAJ, AGRA.—FROM THE RIVER.

AGRA is the second city in the North-West Provinces, both in size and importance. Its population in 1881 was 160,000. It is finely situated on a great bend of the River Jumna, which is crossed by a fine railway bridge of sixteen spans of 142 feet each. The old walls of the city encircle about eleven square miles, about one half of which is covered with houses. It is, without doubt, the most interesting place in all India. It marks, as no other city does, the crowning period of the Great Mogul Dynasty. The great central object is the huge crenellated fortress of sandstone, with its vast red walls and flanking defences surrounded by the white marble domes and towers of its Royal Palace. The stupendous fort, impregnable at the time it was built, is a mile and a half in circuit, its frowning walls being seventy feet in height. During the mutiny in 1857, it sheltered

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