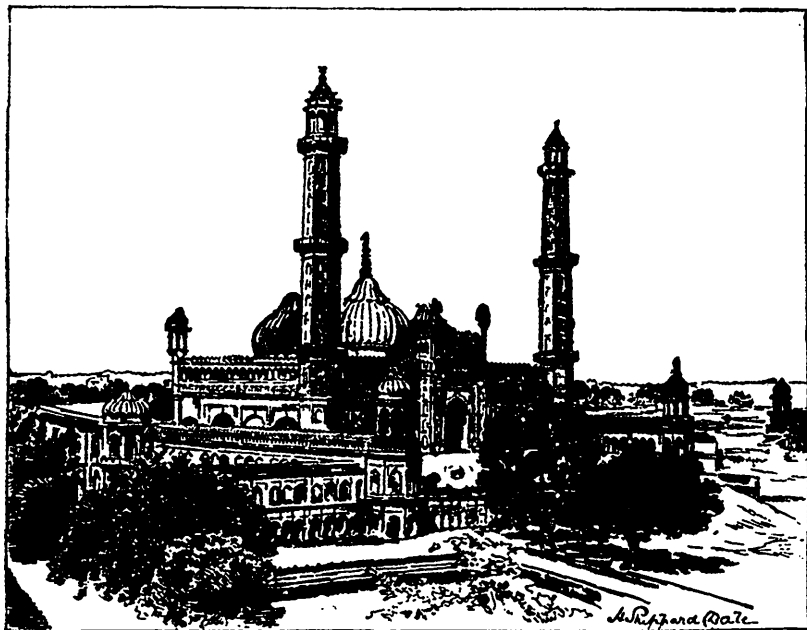


Mussulmen. Thirty-five years ago, it was the capital of a great Mohammedan kingdom, and is now the centre of administration, and the focus of the commerce, of an important British province. Lucknow attracts to itself much of the native Mussulman aristocracy and learning, and undoubtedly exercises more potent influence in Mohammedan society than any other city in India, except, perhaps, Hyderabad. Lucknow is wealthy and prosperous, presenting an outward appearance of magnificence and splendour, though its architecture, with one or two exceptions, is, beyond all expression, execrable. Placed in the centre of a province justly called "the Garden of India," the suburbs are extremely beautiful;



JAMA MASJID, LUCKNOW.

viewed from any vantage point, the city is wonderfully picturesque, the debased and degraded architecture being toned by distance, its lofty minarets and gilded domes alone visible among the luxuriant foliage in which the whole city appears embosomed. Nowhere in India are there more beautiful avenues, parks, and gardens; nowhere in India are there more uglier palaces, mosques and mausoleums.

The royal palaces of Lucknow are, without exception, the worst specimens in all India; costly and extravagant, tawdry and tinsel, bad in architectural design, worse in decorative treatment, but worst of all in the smear of Oriental vice and degradation that still seems to cling about them.