

able East India Company will strenuously and unremittingly pursue their laudable endeavours to obtain an equitable commercial reciprocity for Hindostan, instead of the one-sided system of (so called), free trade, which is still in operation, I conclude with cordially thanking a generous Public and an impartial Press for the encouragement afforded me towards the prosecution of labours, the grand aim of which is, the happiness and perpetuity of the British Empire.

POSSESSIONS IN ASIA.

It will be perceived that, in the present edition (the second), 100 pages of new matter have been added above the number given in the former edition; and, in order to do this, as well as to add several valuable manuscript documents furnished by the E. I. House, Board of Control, Custom House, Colonial Office, &c., a portion of what appeared in the first edition is necessarily omitted; viz. the chapter on China, the incomplete census of India, and other documents given in the Appendix, which were before printed rather to shew our lamentable ignorance of Indian statistics, and to excite attention to the subject, than as being themselves of value. A complete chapter has been given on the Hindoos, their character, institutions, customs, &c.; valuable additions have been made to the commercial, religious, and educational portions of the volume; and the returns of the subsidized, protected, and tributary chiefs of India are now, for the first time, printed. A new general map, together with one of lower Bengal, has been added, and no pains spared to render the work deserving of public approbation.

The Reader will occasionally perceive a discrepancy in the orthography of some Oriental proper names, but that is an evil not to be avoided, as the vowels are supplied arbitrarily by the ear of the Europeans.

The East India Company in 1763.
 + The total British territory under the immediate Government of the East India Company is 514,150 square miles (i. e. ten times the size of England) and the extent in square miles of British territory in India and territories protected by Great Britain is 1,128,800.—[Parliamentary Return, 1831.] For details, see pp. 50 & 51.