

of conquests almost unequalled which marked the progress of European power and influence ; but as a very few facts to be regarded, as prominent features only, connected with our occupation of that country. We feel, at the same time, that an apology is here due to this audience for having stated in the announcement of this lecture that the *past* history of India would be a portion of our plan. Such was, in fact, the intention ; but the impossibility of its performance was coincident with the very first attempt to follow the outline proposed. The past history of India has never yet been written, nor can it possibly be comprised within the limits of a single lecture : we must either pause here, or be involved in a mass of facts which would at once embarrass the lecturer and prostrate the patience of our audience. We are content to hesitate, from the consideration—the knowledge of which has been communicated since the intention to deliver this lecture was formed—that other minds, more competent than ours, are to claim your attention in the course of these Lectures in the present session ; and to them is cheerfully conceded the ground over which we should have been delighted with you, however cursorily, to travel.

It would be difficult, also, within the limits allotted to this lecture, to give any well-defined view of our East Indian possessions ; yet that some such attempt ought to be made all will admit. But how shall it be done ? The shape and proportions of that play-thing, a boy's kite, perhaps presents us with the most familiar illustration of the geographical form of Hindostan : The lower point of the kite is Cape Comorin, off which is the island of Ceylon, which lies within six degrees of the equator ; on the West side of the lower angle is the Bombay Presidency, and on the right side that of Madras. The latter districts have hitherto been free from the prevalence of the wide-spread mutiny which has prevailed in the Northern part of this empire. If we draw a line across the