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ASIATIC
ANNUAL REGISTER,

OR,

A VIEW OF THE HISTORY

OF

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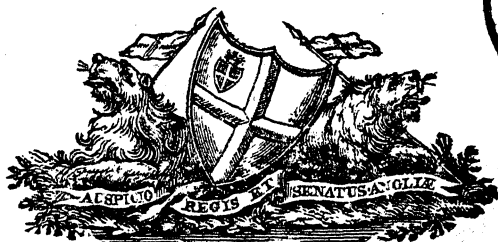
AND OF THE

POLITICS, COMMERCE AND LITERATURE

OF

ASIA,

For the Year 1801.



LONDON,

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M. J. P. M.
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BOOKS PUBLISHED IN CALCUTTA, 1801.

In the course of this year, the following Works have appeared in Calcutta, from the pen of the indefatigable and meritorious Mr. GILCHRIST, author of the Hindustanee Dictionary, viz.

A New THEORY and PROSPECTUS of PERSIAN VERBS,

With their HINDUSTANEE SYNONIMES,

In PERSIAN and ENGLISH.

To which is prefixed, a COPIOUS INTRODUCTION, wherein Mr. GILCHRIST illustrates the Principles of his Theory, and argues with considerable ingenuity on the Utility that he conceives may result from its Adoption.

We must reserve an account of this Work for our next Volume. In the mean time, we beg to announce to our Readers, that 500 Copies of it are expected in England, by the next Ships from Bengal, and that Orders for it will be received by

Mr. J. DEBRETT, Bookseller, Piccadilly.

Mr. GILCHRIST's other Work is entitled,

The ANTI-JARGONIST,

OR,

*A Short INTRODUCTION to the HINDUSTANEE
LANGUAGE,*

(Vulgarly, but erroneously, called the Moors,)

Comprising the Rudiments of that Tongue, with an extensive VOCABULARY, English and Hindustanee, and Hindustanee and English,

Accompanied with

Some plain and useful Dialogues, Translations, Poems, Tales, &c. &c. with a View of illustrating the Whole on Practical Principles, being partly an Abridgment of the Oriental Linguist, but greatly altered and improved, embellished with the Hindustanee Horal Diagram.

PREFACE.

IN delivering this Volume to the Public, so many months after the period at which it ought to have appeared, we feel considerable solicitude. Had this delay arisen from neglect or tardiness, we could have expected no favour, for we should have been without any excuse: but, as it proceeded from a concurrence of circumstances, which it was wholly out of our power either to foresee or prevent, we hope for

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the liberal indulgence of our Readers. Our former Volumes were not published so early in the year as the peculiar nature and objects of the work required, and as we could ourselves have wished; but, we pledge ourselves, in future, to publish punctually in the month of January.

It has been observed by some of our Correspondents, to whose opinions we are disposed to pay great deference, that we proceed too slowly with our History, and that a single chapter in each volume is insufficient. Not to attend to this remark, would betray a degree of indolence, or remissness, of which we are unconscious: but the circumstances above alluded to have disabled us, this year, from fulfilling our intention of extending the historical department to two chapters. The one which we here present to the Public, will

will not, however, be found uninteresting, or uninstrusive. It embraces one of the most momentous periods in the annals of India. In the beginning of the seventeenth century, the mighty fabric of the Mogul Government had attained its brightest eminence, if not the utmost plenitude of its power; and at that time, too, commenced the connection with England, by which it was destined to be subverted. To unfold the principles on which the political institutions and civil policy of that Government were founded; to view the modes in which these were practised, and to explain the effects of their operation; to shew the state of domestic and foreign commerce in India, and the peculiar maxims by which it had been regulated in all ages; and, finally, to give an account of the manner in which that commerce gave birth to the intercourse with England, as

well as of the origin of the India Company, and their infant establishments, are subjects which, when brought into one point of view, and placed in a perspicuous light, seem well adapted to attract the public attention, and to promulgate an important part of that useful knowledge which lies scattered over several hundred volumes, inaccessible to common readers, from their scarcity, and the different languages in which they are written, and repulsive to men of taste and talents, from their dryness and verbosity. We have made it our business to consult those volumes with scrupulous attention, and to compare the facts which they contain with those which we ourselves collected both in India and England, as well from unpublished documents as oral information. The whole of our materials have been derived from the most authentic
sources;

sources; and we trust the learned reader will find, that the strictest fidelity has been observed, not only in the relation of circumstances and events, but in the views which have been taken of their causes and consequences.

The other departments of this volume contain much interesting information, as well as several original articles, equally curious, entertaining, and useful.

To the important question respecting the Private Trade, and the employment of India-built ships for the purpose of carrying it on, we paid the most diligent attention. All the official communications that took place on the subject between the Commissioners for the Affairs of India and the Court of Directors, in the course of the year 1801, are inserted in a connected series;

ries ; and the Debates on it, both in Parliament and at the India-House, are given in detail.

Having determined, from motives of convenience, as well as by the advice of a great number of our Subscribers, not only to make some reduction in the size of our volumes, but to confine the different departments of the work within certain limits, we were obliged, in our Account of Books, to postpone a review of some of the most interesting publications of the year. According to the plan we have adopted for reviewing works of conspicuous merit, each publication necessarily occupies a considerable space ; as we give a full and complete analysis of its contents, together with illustrations wherever any part admits of embellishment, or the manner in which the author has treated

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