

**SUGGESTIONS
TOWARDS THE FUTURE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

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Suggestions Towards the Future Government of India by Harriet Martineau

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HARRIET MARTINEAU

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BY

HARRIET MARTINEAU,

AUTHOR OF "BRITISH RULE IN INDIA," &c. &c.

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PREFACE.

It seems necessary to explain the apparently strange act of one like myself publishing a pamphlet on the political question of the hour. The simple truth is, that my lately-issued historical sketch of "British Rule in India" is too exclusively historical to satisfy all readers, at a time when there is a demand for ideas as to the future government of India; and, as a natural consequence, I have been urgently requested to present, in some familiar form, certain inferences from the past history, and suggestions from the present circumstances of Hindostan and its rulers, which may possibly be of use in the impending controversy about the maintenance or abolition of the East India Company. The leisure, quietness, and impartial position of the sick-room seemed to render the request reasonable; and I have had much satisfaction in doing what I could to induce consideration and caution, in prospect of the most formidable legislative proposition that has been brought forward for many years. If no good can be done by such means, there can, at least, be no harm; for it is a case in which the policy of the English reformers is conservative; and it is the

Ministerial scheme which complicates with its old Tory view a revolutionary tendency. This tendency is sufficiently obvious to justify a hope that the people of England and their representatives will be on their guard: but every warning may be of more or less use; and it is this consideration which is answerable for the appearance of the present pamphlet.

There is no pretence of originality in what I have written. I have gathered suggestions (as in my recent volume I gathered facts) from all quarters. If I were to specify one source rather than another, it would be, as supplying some of the heads in Part II, the pamphlet on the "Principles of Indian Reform," published by the late Mr. JOHN CHAPMAN, the year before his lamented death.

Some apology may be considered desirable for the confident, if not abrupt, tone of what I have written. I had no strength and no space to spare in diluting the expression of what I had to say: and I must simply refer any critical reader to my title, and remind him that, in offering "Suggestions," there is no need of the disclaimers and apologies which may soften the positive tone of a discourse or argument.

AMBLESIDE, *January 23rd*, 1858.

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