

# **INDIA: THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE**

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India: The Land and the People by Sir James Caird

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**SIR JAMES CAIRD**

**INDIA: THE LAND  
AND THE PEOPLE**



INDIA,  
THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE.

BY

SIR JAMES CAIRD, K.C.B., LL.D., F.R.S.



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Third Edition.

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1884.

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To

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR LOUIS MALLET,

LEAD UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

MY DEAR MALLET,

With your permission I dedicate to you this book on India and its People, with a warm acknowledgment of the valuable assistance you have readily afforded me in the consideration of questions which for the last twelve years have engaged your constant attention.

Believe me,

Sincerely yours,

JAMES CAIRD.

3, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE,

OCT. 1883.

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## P R E F A C E .

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AFTER the great famine in India of 1876-7, the author was invited by the Marquis of Salisbury, then Secretary of State for India, to become a member of the Famine Commission, which was appointed by Her Majesty's Government to inquire into the whole circumstances of that calamity, with a view to the adoption of such means as might enable timely provision to be made to meet the inevitable recurrence, in that country, of seasons of dearth. The inquiry embraced the whole of India, and its results were embodied in the Report of the Commission, which has been laid before Parliament.

In traversing the country with the Members of the Commission, men eminent in their respective provinces, and two of them native gentlemen holding high office under native Princes, an unusually favourable opportunity for observation of the Land and the People was afforded. Whatever, at the time, appeared worthy of note was recorded in the author's note-book. And much was seen



by a fresh eye, accustomed to seek reasons for diversity of systems affecting the prosperity of those engaged in the cultivation of the land, which is the chief business of the people of India.

The author desires to take the reader with him over the same course, from the outset of his journey at Southampton to his arrival in India, and thence over its various provinces. In the final chapters some special features of the policy which should be kept in view in our dealings with India are set forth, and certain main principles also which the author recommended in regard to the treatment of famine, on which the Commission were not fully agreed.

The chapter on Egypt in a previous Edition has been withdrawn to make room for the author's recommendations, in his Special Report, to Her Majesty's Government, respecting the future policy to be adopted in India.

The author desires here to express his obligations to his colleagues on the Famine Commission, and their very able Secretary, Mr. C. A. Elliott, for the valuable assistance he received from them in his inquiries while in India.

3, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE,

*September, 1884.*

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