PREFACE

I KNOW of no English book which quite covers the
ground that I have attempted to explore. The nearest
approach to the subject was made in "The History of the
Portuguese in India," published a few years since, but I
have been unable to avail myself of the undoubted erudition
of the author as he has not connected his narrative in any
way with the general history of India.

In the study of Oriental history the absence of surnames
is a great drawback, each individual stands alone, and his
name awakens no chord of sympathy as when we read of
the Cecil under Elizabeth and of the Cecil under Victoria.
The Portuguese occupy an intermediate position between
the East and West; the son, as a rule, takes his father's
name, but not always: it requires some research to discover
that Pero da Silva, Alvaro d'Ataide and Estavão da Gama
were all three sons of Vasco da Gama, and meanwhile our
interest is dulled.

In the matter of Oriental names the Portuguese translitera-
tion presents some difficulties—Çarcamdaçao for Sikandar
Khan, Codavascão for Khuda Bakhsh Khan, and Xacoæz
for Shaikh Iwaz are soluble, but some have defied indentifi-
cation. Where possible the name has been taken from the
"Tahafatu-I-Mujāhidín", from Elliot's "History of India"
or from Bayley's "Gujarat." Before leaving the subject
of names it may be noted that the different systems of
cataloguing the Portuguese writers throws some difficulty
in the way of enquirers. One of the early historians is
Fernão Lopez de Castanheda; he is usually quoted as Castanheda and the custom has been followed here, but in the British Museum catalogue he will be found under Lopez, and, worse than all, under Fernão in that monumental work, the Bibliotheca Lusitana of Diogo Barbosa Machado.

I have endeavoured to give a history of the rise of the Portuguese power in India derived from the best available sources, and to give, not merely a record of military expeditions and of the change of governors, but also the details which throw light on the social life and on the idiosyncrasies of the chief men of the time. I hope I may have succeeded. The Portuguese connection with Ceylon has been so fully dealt with by Sir Emerson Tennant, and its connection with the Malay States by Crawfurd, that only a summary has been added to give completeness to this book. If the subject prove of sufficient interest the work will be concluded with a volume on the decline of the Portuguese power in India.

In the first four chapters authorities have been freely quoted; in the remaining ones they are only given where the narrative is not based on the following historians:

- Castanheda to 1538
- Correa to 1550
- Barros to 1526
- Couto from 1526 to 1550

I have to thank Sir Alfred Lyall and Mr. E. White for valuable suggestions and advice.
# CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BIBLIOGRAPHY</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Introductory</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Portuguese.—Malabar</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Arms and Methods of Warfare—Voyages—Piracy—Land Journeys</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Religion—Coinage—Remuneration of Officers—Banished Men—Appendix</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. 1497—1501</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI. 1502—1504</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII. D. Francisco d'Almeida, Viceroy, 1505—1509</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIII. Afonso d'Albuquerque, Governor 1509—1515</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IX. Lopo Soares, Governor—Diogo Lopes de Sequeira, Governor. 1515—1521</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X. D. Duarte de Menezes, Governor—D. Vasco da Gama, Viceroy—D. Henrique de Menezes, Governor—Lopo Vaz de Sampayo, Governor, 1521—1529. Appendix I: Successions—Appendix II: Revenue Settlement of Goa</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XI. Nuno da Cunha, Governor, 1529—1538</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XII. D. Garcia de Noronha, Viceroy—D. Estavão da Gama, Governor. 1538—1542</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XIII. Martim Afonso de Sousa, Governor, 1542—1545. Simão Botelho, Comptroller of Revenue</td>
<td>279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XIV. D. João de Castro, Governor and Viceroy—Garcia de Sa, Governor—Jorge Cabral, Governor. 1545—1550</td>
<td>299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPENDIX</td>
<td>MALACCA—THE MOLUCCAS—CHINA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDEX</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Except where specially stated below, the quotations in the Notes give the reference to the page of the edition mentioned here.

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statements sometimes clash with those of the original
documents and occasionally show extreme ignorance of
India. Three Decades, ending with the death of Henrique
de Menezes, were published between 1552 and 1563, in
the author's lifetime. The fourth Decade, which purports
to have been made up from notes, was published in 1615;
its value is small. Couto, who continued the work from
the end of the third decade, was also an official historian,
but he spent almost all, if not all, his life in India after
1556. His 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Decades alone were printed
during the author's lifetime; the 6th Decade was burned
after printing, before publication, and we learn from Barbosa
Machado in his work, Bibliotheca Lusitana, s. v. Adeodato
da Trinidade, that Adeodato, who was Couto's brother-in-law,
touched up the sixth Decade previous to reprinting into the
form we now have it, to please certain persons who did not
like the unvarnished narrative of Couto. The remainder
of Couto's papers came also into the possession of this
brother-in-law. The 8th and 9th Decades were stolen in
Couto's lifetime from his house while still in manuscript—
what we have now is an abstract prepared by him. The
11th, though it was written, has never been found; its place
has been supplied by a compilation of the Editor in the
edition used here. The 8th Decade was published in 1673
the 9th in 1736; 5 Books of the 12th (all that exist), to the
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