

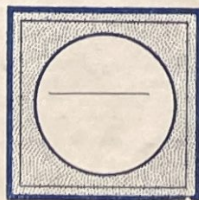


Book bound May 26-1925
TRAVEL 100 YEARS AGO.
ORIGINAL LETTERS FROM INDIA (1779-1815). Mrs. Eliza Fay. With Notes by E. M. Forster. (Hogarth Press, 15s.)

Mrs. Fay gives an entertaining picture of travel and life at sea and in India more than a century ago in these letters of hers. How different conditions were then from those of our day is shown by the fact that her first letter was written from Paris, though France and England were at war. Ordinary travellers could come and go much as in time of peace. Prices in France appear to have been almost incredibly cheap. She mentions in France a "very good house where they shewed us two rooms with six excellent beds in them at the rate of four sous (2d.) a bed."

Made a prisoner by the terrible "Hyder Ally" of Madras when she landed in India, she was fortunate to escape with a whole skin. Here and there she alludes to the Gargantuan meals which the British community in India devoured at that date. Dinner was served at 2, and this is the account of one such repast "in the true old Indian style":

We had every joint of a calf on the table at once; nearly half a Bengal sheep; several large dishes of fish; boiled and roasted turkies, a ham, kid, tongue, fowls, and a long train of etceteras. The heat was excessive and we were 30 in company. It is, however, a fact that they ate with great appetite and perseverance.



Clara Cooper
W. H. P. L.
1936



Olway.

Wm. G. Balgownie
ORIGINAL LETTERS,

FROM INDIA;

CONTAINING

A NARRATIVE OF A JOURNEY

THROUGH EGYPT,

AND

THE AUTHOR'S IMPRISONMENT AT CALCUTTA,

BY HYDER ALLY.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

An Abstract of Three Subsequent Voyages to India.

By MRS. FAY.

PRINTED AT CALCUTTA.

1821.



Engraved by J. May from a Drawing by

A. W. Davis.

The Author dressed in the Egyptian Costume

See Letter 7th

1816
35
1781

P R E F A C E.

The volume now submitted to the public, exhibits a faithful account of certain remarkable occurrences in the history of an individual, whose lot has been to make frequent visits to several distant regions of the globe, to mingle in the society of people of different kindreds and tongues, and to experience many vicissitudes of fortune. At a time when fictitious representations of human life are sought for with so much avidity, and constitute one of the principal sources of amusement in the hours of solitude, such a work as the present will, it is presumed, not be unacceptable. Those whose curiosity is attracted by the recital of incidents that never took place, or whose sensibility can be awakened by the description of emotions that were never felt, may perhaps derive a similar gratification from the following unembellished narrative of simple facts and real sufferings.

Five and thirty years ago, it was the fate of the author to undertake a journey over land to India, in company with her husband the late Anthony Fay Esq. who, having been called to the bar by the honorable society of Lincoln Inns, had formed the resolution of practising in the courts of Calcutta. They travelled through France, and over the Alps to Italy, whence embarking at Leghorn they sailed to Alexandria in Egypt. Having visited some of the curiosities in this interesting country, and made a short stay at Grand Cairo, they pursued their journey across the Desert to Suez after passing down the Red Sea. The ship in which they sailed touched at Calicut, where they were seized by the officers of Hyder Ally, and for fifteen weeks endured all the hardships and privations of a rigorous imprisonment.

When

Rec. 23 Oct 1924



IMPORTANT NOTICE

To be Published Later:— By Hogarth Press

ORIGINAL LETTERS FROM INDIA; containing a Narrative of a Journey through Egypt, and the Author's Imprisonment at Calicut by Hyder Ally, to which is added an Abstract of three subsequent Voyages to India. By Mrs. ELIZA FAY. With introductory and terminal Notes by E. M. FORSTER, and a portrait of Mrs. Fay. About 10s. 6d.

These letters—hitherto unpublished in England—were mostly written from the East at the close of the 18th century. They throw much light upon contemporary events and still more upon the character of their authoress. Full of entertainment and instruction.

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