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Mughal Land Revenue System by Lanka Sundaram

Review by: W. H. M.

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investigated by Mr. Sitā Rām Kohli; and in the other numerous records, English and vernacular, which are in the possession of the Punjab Government. Mr. H. L. O. Garrett himself, one of the authors of this book, has, in his capacity of Keeper of the Punjab Government Records, been responsible for the preservation of these sources of information. Under his enthusiastic guidance, the old Government Records have been rescued from oblivion and set out and arranged and made available for students in the appropriate atmosphere of the Tomb of Anārkalī. From these sources he has unearthed a great deal of useful information supplementary to that already available, and the result is a book which cannot fail to attract the attention both of the historical student and of the general reader. It is a comprehensive work dealing with some seventy different characters, and supplying the information available regarding each in a manner which should render it for the future the standard work on the subject. At the same time, without making any undue sacrifice of academic accuracy, the authors have avoided the pitfalls of pedantry and their work exhibits a popular diction of a spirited and almost breezy character. They have produced a book which will give pleasure to a large circle of readers.

E. D. M.

MUGHAL LAND REVENUE SYSTEM. By LANKA SUNDARAM.

7 $\frac{1}{4}$ × 5, pp. iii + 103 + v. Woking: The Basheer Muslim Library. Price 3s.

In this pamphlet, reprinted from the *Journal of the Bangalore Mythic Society*, Mr. Sundaram makes a gallant attempt to elucidate an obscure subject. His equipment is, however, inadequate. He has not gone to the sources, but relies on translations and secondary works, some of which are long out of date; while he more than once deplores the inaccessibility of books which he would like to have seen. His account of Akbar's system is in effect "potted" Gladwin, and, while Gladwin was a worthy pioneer, he is not a trustworthy guide.

The pamphlet cannot, therefore, be regarded as a valuable contribution to knowledge, while the writer's general history is not immaculate : Abul Fazl was never " the famous vizier of Akbar " (p. 1) : Todar Mal never " served under Feroz Shah " (p. 32) ; Sher Shah reigned for five years, not " for nearly a decade and a half " (p. 19).

W. H. M.

BASAVA-RĀJA-DEVARA-RAGALÉ. By HARI-HARA, edited by T. S. VENKANNAIYYA, M.A., Professor of Kanarese, the Maharaja's College, Mysore. pp. 106. Printed at Wesleyan Mission Press, Mysore, 1930. Price Rs. 2.

This book is a welcome addition to the history of Kanarese literature, and it is based upon the palm-leaf original. In the history of the rise of Hindu creeds, Basava, the founder of Vira-Saivism (sometimes known as the Jaṅgama Sect) occupies a prominent place. Nevertheless, his life and achievements are still a matter for controversy. In the absence of any historical records, the followers and admirers of Basava have had to rely on the various *purāṇas* which have sprung up around his name, and it is precisely in the valuation of those that the importance of Hari-Hara's *Basava Rāja Dēvara Ragalé* is seen. Although this book does not enlighten us on many questions concerning the life and success of the expounder of Vira-Saivism, it is a substantial contribution to the account we already have of him. Professor Venkannaiyya has brought to light many new facts about the life of Basava hitherto not mentioned in the various Basava Purāṇās. Further, in this work greater attention is paid to historical accuracy than to legendric superfluities, and as such it is of substantial value to students of literature and history. Hari-Hara was essentially a " Poet of the People ", and the fluency of his thought and diction places him in the front rank of the Kanarese poets. The introduction to the book, though ably written by Professor Venkannayya, is inclined to be rather pedantic.

C. S. K. PATHY.