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CALIFORNIA

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FREDERICK CHARLES DANVERS

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# PREFACE



**T**HE present work may be considered as in continuation of the 'First Letter Book of the East India Company,' printed by Mr. Quaritch in 1893; but some changes have been made in the form of its production, the principal being that it has been thought advisable, firstly, to modernise the spelling of the manuscripts (except as regards place names, which are given as in the original, but with the modern name within brackets), and, secondly, to refrain from any attempt at annotation, the introduction and glossary having rendered the latter unnecessary. The order in which the several documents appear in the original volumes has been followed, but it will be observed that those are not always in strict sequence of date. As regards dates occurring in the body of the work, the 'old style' figures have been retained. Under this system, as is well known, the year was reckoned to commence on March 25.



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*Corrigenda*

Page	1, line	3, for 1603 read 1602
„	31, „	37, omit Misy
„	40, „	12, for fixe (flux?) read six
„	244, „	7, for Tho. Wright read John Weight





## INTRODUCTION

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THE series of India Office Records known as the 'O. C.' Collection, of which the earliest are published in the following pages, appears to have been collected and bound in volumes about the year 1835. This collection comprises letters, with enclosures, from their agents and others to the East India Company, and is styled 'Original Correspondence from India, with collateral documents, originating at any place between England and Japan.' These extend from 1603 to 1708, and appear to have been previously kept without any regard to method or order. It is stated in a note that 'they seem from what materials were extant at the commencement of order in keeping the early records to have been preserved by accident. The series, though valuable and important as far as it extends, is not continuous.'

The various sections from which this revised collection of Original Correspondence from India was formed were the following :

Original Correspondence, chiefly letters from India ; Miscellaneous Papers appended to the foregoing ; Damaged Papers ; Domestic Papers, improperly mixed with some from India ; Imperfect