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SKETCHES IN SCINDE

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# SKETCHES IN SCINDE

BY

LIEUTENANT W. EDWARDS, 86<sup>th</sup> Reg.

LITHOGRAPHED BY

CHARLES HAGEE, ESQ.



*your  
Obedient  
Servant*



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AND SOLD BY ALL THE BOOKSELLERS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

To  
His Excellency,  
Major General Sir Chas. J. Napier, G.C.B.,  
Governor of  
Sinde and Bellochistan,

These Sketches, 140727  
a  
illustrative of the Scenery and Architecture of Sinde  
and the adjacent Frontier,  
are, With Permission,  
gratefully and respectfully  
Dedicated,

by His Excellency's  
Truly obliged and faithful servant,

Willm. Edwards,  
Lieut. Col. M's 86<sup>th</sup>, in  
Royal County Down Regt.

# EDWARD'S SKETCHES IN SCINDE.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PLATES:

### HIS EXCELLENCY MAJOR GENERAL SIR C. NAPIER, FRONTISPIECE.

The Portrait of this distinguished Officer was taken on the late expedition across the desert against Dejar Khan and the Hill Chieftains,—the Country is contiguous to Scinde, but belongs to the Khan of Kelat, and is called "Cutch Gundars," where the cold is at certain periods extremely intense, hence the upper Spencer or garment of sheep skin, which forms so prominent a part of the equipment. This was very generally used by our troops in the Afghan country, being warm, light, and readily procurable. The cap resembles the helmet now worn by the Prussian infantry, and like the new infantry cap lately introduced into our army, it has a projection behind to protect the poll of the neck. This is an admirable likeness and the signature attests the approbation of Sir C. J. Napier.

The Governor of Scinde and Beloochistan has occupied a large share of the public attention as one of the glorious Chiefs of our Indian armies. In February, 1843, he fought the battle of Meeanee against the Ameers of upper and lower Scinde, on which occasion the whole of the Enemy's artillery, ammunition, standards and camp with considerable stores and some treasure were taken. The loss on the part of the Enemy was supposed to amount to five thousand, while the British force lost two hundred and fifty-six, killed and wounded. In March he fought the battle of Duppa, against a force of twenty thousand men of all arms, with a result not less triumphant. Any detail of the services of this brave and excellent soldier does not come within the purpose of a notice like this; his most signal triumphs are fresh in the minds of all, and enough is known of him to show that the name of Napier and Victory are united in a knot of laurel which the sword of no Enemy shall sever.

### SCINDE.

The territory of Scinde lately possessed by the Biluch chiefs of Talpur, is between the 23rd and 26th degrees of north latitude, and 67th and 70th degrees of east longitude, having the river Indus nearly in its centre, and comprising all the portion of its valley between the Bahawalpur territories to the north, the ocean to the south, east and west of the desert tracts which intervene between it and the province of Cutch and the mountains separating it from the higher country of Biluchistan. The extent of this lower division of the country, fertilised by the Indus may, be about five hundred miles in greatest length allowing for the windings of the stream—it would be difficult to determine its average breadth, measured by the soil coming within the influence of the river or its branches, as the extent is variable; to the eastward, particularly above the Delta as far north as Khyrpur, the sandy desert which separates Scinde from Cutch and Gazrat, contends with the fertile soil for the predominance and thus it is generally narrow and limited, whilst on the western side the river occasionally fertilizes to the utmost verge of the mountains, at a great distance from its main stream. Scinde Proper, however, may be understood as the whole of that portion of territory included between the limits and within the influence of the river; those parts which lie beyond the reach of the Indus being sandy wastes or desert tracts, scarcely merit any place in the description of a country so peculiar in its features as that of Scinde, which like Egypt is the gift of the river permeating its whole extent and fertilizing its valleys. The population of Scinde has been estimated in round numbers at about a million, but judging from those portions where actual enquiry has tested this computation, the number of inhabitants would appear to be overrated. Thus Hyderabad is found to contain no more than thirty-five thousand, and Shikapur the next in size formerly rated at thirty-five thousand was found to yield only twenty-two thousand.

During the last eleven hundred years Scinde has been subject to just as many different dynasties. From the year of our era 711 until the invasion of Nadir Shah, in 1740, it had been ruled by a succession of princes who acceded to the sovereign power principally by conquest and intrigue. Exactly a hundred years after the invasion by Nadir Shah it became subject to the Afghan throne. In 1786, the last reigning family, the Talpurs succeeded by conquest and in 1843 it was annexed to the British possessions in India.

The state of affairs in Scinde up to October 1842 had appeared to be particularly quiet, but on the return of the British troops from beyond the Afghan passes, the affairs of Scinde and the whole Indus frontier appear to have attracted the particular attention of government; for certain conditions were soon after proposed to the Ameers which were unexpected, and to which they could not readily acquiesce, and the delay in signing the treaties and acceding to all the terms proposed, rendered it necessary pursuant to orders to make a demonstration on Hyderabad, which was followed by the signing of the treaties on the part of the Ameers, the promulgation roused the Beloochees inasmuch that they hurried their princes reluctantly into hostilities, when the battles of Meeanee and Duppa were fought by Major General Sir Charles Napier, the result of which was the fall of the last Scindian dynasty, thus placing the country at the disposal of the British.

### 1. NORTH-WEST FRONT.—FORT HYDERABAD.

The fort and city of Hyderabad was one of the strongest places in Scinde and is yet of great importance. The city occupies the site of the ancient Hindoo city of Nairamkote, and the foundations of both were laid in 1768 by Khan Ghulam Shah Kallora.

Here was the residence of the Ex-Ameers of Scinde. The inner walls of the apartments are from four to five feet thick, and like the ceilings they are beautifully and elaborately painted in fresco and enriched with gilt cornices. All round the apartments particularly of the Zenana were massive glass mirrors some being of great size, these were removed by the prize agents but the frames richly gilt and fixed in the wall still remain. The town is at the extremity of the long range of buildings the entrance from which into the fort is seen in No. 5.

Hyderabad was the chosen residence of the Ex-Ameers of Scinde and their families, but their stronghold is now held by the European officers of the garrison. The fort crowns the summit of a steep termination to a range of hills; and though on a near approach its defences are seen to be in a dilapidated state has from its great elevation and a large and lofty interior citadel, a very picturesque appearance, gardens with thick clusters of trees and the branch of the river flowing near the walls diversify the scene. In the foreground appears a group of native Beloochees, and two women carrying water under their arms. They are peculiar to Hyderabad and this method of carrying the water, under the arm and not upon the head as is generally the custom, denotes superiority of cast.

### 2. TOMBS AT TRUCK.

These tombs lie among the Lakoe Hills which extend from Karrachee to Schewan, being distant from the former place N. E. about sixty-five miles. Little or nothing is known of them but that they are very ancient and held in great sanctity. The external ornamental painting is in fresco on a very hard marble-like and durable composition, made chiefly from finely powdered shells and is called "Chunnam". It is in universal use throughout India particularly Bergul.

The country between Karrachee and Schewan is altogether uncultivated, in many places indeed incapable of cultivation and with the exception of such inconsiderable places as Dummaj, and Marris uninhabited inasmuch that supplies of the most common description are unobtainable, hence any force marching through this territory must be dependent on its own resources. The route from Karrachee to Schewan is by the Gorban Pass. Dummaj, Marris and Choula was first traversed by British troops in 1830, but these tombs lie quite out of the usual route to upper Scinde among the Lakoe Hills, a solitude rarely visited by travellers.

### 3. THE ROUND TOWER.—FORT HYDERABAD.

In the centre of the fort there is a massive tower unconnected with the works, standing alone and overlooking the surrounding country on all sides. The round tower was the depository of a great portion of the wealth of the Ameers of Scinde, while Omraout in the Desert the birthplace of Akbar Khan held the treasure of the Kypoor branch of the family which was the accumulation of ages. The riches of the round tower were estimated at not less than twenty millions sterling, of which thirteen were calculated to be in money and the remainder in jewels, but a great portion of this vast wealth escaped the search of the conquerors, having been most probably carried away by the ladies of the Zenana and their families, who were suffered to depart, much to the honour of the General who achieved the conquest, without being stripped of their ornaments. In the dispatch to the Governor General bearing date May 9th, 1843, the following passage occurs. "I positively forbade their personal ornaments of gold and jewels to be taken from them by the prize agents, but whether they carried out treasure I cannot say."

This Tower, from its peculiar situation standing alone in the centre of the place, its shape and the extensive view from the top, all remind the British soldier of the round tower at Windsor. Upon the right and opposite the bridge is the bazaar of Hyderabad.

### 4. VIEW FROM THE TOP OF THE ROUND TOWER.

This view is taken from the top of the round tower the subject of the preceding plate. The Falilee river insulates the site of the Fort and the City of Hyderabad; it is a considerable stream during the rise of the Indus, but in the dry season it is scarcely knee deep. In extent and rich effect this view cannot be surpassed: as the scenery near Hyderabad is varied and extremely beautiful. The banks of the river are covered with lofty trees, and to the north west the distance is closed by a background of high land which relieves the monotony of the dingy sky and arid plains of the Delta. On the left appears the north west face of the Fort which forms the subject of Plate No. 1, and on the right is a portion of the Petalz or Suburb of the city. At the distance of about four miles and a half flows the Indus, and in the middle distance is seen a pile called the Fakir's Fort. Hyderabad recommended itself to the Ameers as a place of residence from its central situation, their hunting preserves being accessible by means of

the river. They were also charmed with the climate for though very sultry during certain seasons of the year, it has a drier atmosphere than the Delta, and less exposed in its neighbouring country to inundation than most portions lower down, whilst it enjoys in common with Lower Scinde the monsoon winds and a shorter duration of excessive heat than below Schewan.

#### 5. MAIN GATE WAY.—FORT HYDERABAD.

As before stated the capital of Scinde was founded in 1758, by Ghulam Shah Kalora. The Talpurs particularly Patti Ali and his brother Ghulam patronized Khudabad a short distance from the north as a Royal Residence, and here their tombs may be seen occupying the same relative position in death as the brothers did during life. The city of Hyderabad is a poor place as the capital of a country, carrying on but little trade, and that only for its own consumption. The presence of the chiefs always induced an air of bustle and importance from the great throng of retainers who frequented the bazaar. Besides the leading personages that composed the Hyderabad durbar, a host of functionaries filled up the scene, each Chief, independently of his necessary quota of kardars, mumsis, and other officers of state being amply supplied with holy teachers and peculiar favourites from all parts of India, Persia, &c.; some, as usual in Eastern courts, being raised from the dregs of society to the very highest offices; the weakness and inexperience of the Scindian princes being prominently shown in the ready credence which designing adventurers obtained at the Hyderabad Court, which, as a whole, presented a curious anomaly, for each individual composing their strange form of government lived as if deeply jealous and suspicious of the other. This is the only gateway of any size; through it is obtained a view of the Choultry, a place of rest and refreshment for the natives, whose avocations bring them to the fort, as for the sale of provisions, &c. Here they deposit their articles, cook their rice, and sleep in the heat of the day. This gateway is a crowded thoroughfare, and a double sentry is posted there to prevent obstruction. It appears in the plate thronged with passengers, Europeans and natives on foot and horseback, sufficiently distinct in characteristic costume to mark their various avocations.

#### 6. MAIN GUARD AND GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

This is a place of great thoroughfare. The building on the left is the main guard, the officers' guard-room being above and that for the men below. These were built by and were the residence of the Ex-Ameer, Meer Nusser Khan. This Prince was brought forward by his late father in the intercourse with the British, and though fourth in rank below the reigning Ameer, his father, he was the only person who, with him, addressed, on all occasions, and was addressed by, the English Government.

He openly professed his attachment to the English, yet at the same time maintained a friendly intercourse with the several members of the fallen monarchy of Caudul. He was a man of mild and engaging manners, much addicted to the sports of the field, but having more liberality than talent, and less prudence than was necessary to one in the difficult part which he had lately to play.

The sudden death by apoplexy of this unfortunate Prince, the most popular and prominent of all the ill-fated Ameers of Scinde at the period of their dethronement, took place in April, 1845. He was described sixteen or eighteen years ago, when he was about twenty-five years of age, as by far the most engaging and popular of the reigning family. To those qualities which so much endeared him to the natives he added, unfortunately for himself, a taste for the society of Europeans, and, contrary to the policy of his family, which had always endeavoured to keep the English at a distance, was constantly seeking a more intimate connexion with that mighty European power to which India was subject.

#### 7. ENTRANCE TO THE TOWN OF SCHEWAN, ON THE SIDE OF LAL SHAH BAZ'S TOMB.

The approach to Schewan is through a grove of beautiful tamarind and palm trees. The city is built on a rising ground on the banks of the river Arul, and is distant about two or three miles from the mighty and classic Indus. In the environs are many very fine mosques and tombs, and within the city is a remarkably splendid masjid, built in honour of the celebrated Mahomedan saint, Lal Shah Baz. An object of great interest is the old castle of Schewan, which, although now in ruins, is yet sufficiently perfect to attest its former strength. This castle is generally conjectured to be coeval with Alexander the Great, indeed the following extract from Burnes goes to support this supposition:—"The old castle of Schewan, the erection of which is attributed to Alexander the Great, is perhaps the only veritable relique of the Greeks which can be traced in Scinde; and

coins have lately been found in it which, when submitted to the careful inspection of Mr. Princep, will probably attest its high antiquity. It is built on a mound of earth, nearly eighty feet in height, fifteen hundred wide and eight hundred broad, intersected by subterraneous passages." Lal Shah Baz was a saint of Khorassan, said to have been buried here about 600 years since. His sanctity and miracles are in such repute that pilgrims flock from Afghanistan and India, and even the Princes of the country did him homage. The pole round which the tomb is constructed is of the same kind as are seen in Nos. 1 and 3. They are often, as in this instance, of great size and height, being sometimes perpendicular, and sometimes angular, frequently ornamented with flags at the top, but always with ribbons, feathers, flowers, and garlands; as seen in the plate.

#### 8. RORREE ON THE INDUS.—UPPER SCINDE.

The town of Rorree is situated on an eminence on the left bank of the Indus, opposite to Bakur. Bakur is a fort on a rocky island exactly between the two former places, wherein we have a large arsenal. Rorree is larger than either of these, and contains a population of 8000 inhabitants. Like most of the towns in Scinde it is composed of unseemly mud houses, square, and flat roofed, interspersed with banyan and date trees. The site of Rorree is flinty rock, of an elevation of nearly forty feet, and some of the houses near the river are very lofty. It was here that Lord Keane, in the advance on Candahar, in 1842, threw his bridge across the Indus, which at this point is only 1800 feet broad and about thirty deep. The small island in the distance is held in peculiar veneration. Burnes says that the natives superstitiously believe that the Palla fish (which is, certainly never found higher up the Indus than this spot) come hither to visit the burial place of Khazir Khizar, a saint of great celebrity, and having fulfilled the purpose of their holy pilgrimage, they are said to return without ever presenting their tails to the sainted isle; an assertion, he observes, which the muddy colour of the river places beyond the power of contradiction.

Sakar Rorree and Bakur are esteemed very sacred by the Moham-medans; they had formerly large colleges and establishments of Sijads and holy men, whose minarets and tombs, still contribute to the picturesque appearance of this part of Scinde. A pretty building, occupied as the residence of the British authority, is erected on the western bank of the river. This is also the head quarters of our steamers and flotilla in the Indus, where the British sailor mingles in the groups of swarthy Scindians, Parsee traders, Panjabois, Billechia and Hindustanis. A large force is stationed here, and which infuses into the place a degree of animation and bustle very un-Scindian. The extensive military bazaar at Sakur is a busy and varied scene, and here the poor traders find an asylum from oppression and extortion not elsewhere to be found.

#### 9. THE FORTRESS OF DEYRAH (CUTCH GUNDAVA.)

Deyrah was an oblong mud fort with four bastions and a tower over the gateway.

In the campaign of the early part of 1845, against Bejar Khan and the Hill tribes, it was first occupied by General Simpson and the Bandelund Legion. The Deyrah Valley is fertile and supplied abundant subsistence for the cattle of this force. On the proper left appears the encampment of the British troops. When General Simpson moved from this position, the ground was occupied by the head quarter division under Major General Sir Charles Napier, who ordered the fort to be dismantled, which was done by blowing up the bastions and gateway.

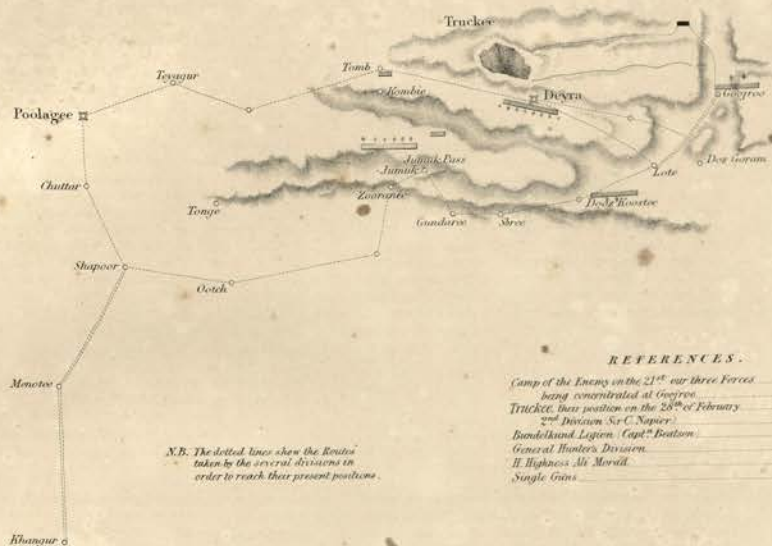
#### 10. SOUTHERN ENTRANCE TO THE STRONG-HOLD OF TRUCKEE, IN THE BOOJTEE COUNTRY. (CUTCH GUNDAVA.)

Truckee was the strong-hold or mountain fastness of Bejar Khan, in the campaign against that chieftain in the early part of 1845. The view shows the southern entrance to it, which is through a slit or crack in a stupendous wall of rock, bounding the Dyrsh Valley on the North. It is an extraordinary perpendicular ridge 1200 feet high at its extreme point of elevation. Along the ridge covering their position on the other side of it, Bejar and his followers were posted in considerable force, crowning each side of the crack or fissure, and thus defending the only access to Truckee in front. At the top it is extremely narrow and at the bottom is about 130 yards long, and is thus broad enough (in some places scarcely that) to admit of the only broad enough (in some places scarcely that) to admit of the passage of two camels abreast. All approach to the ridge is impracticable. Had Bejar held out, this passage was to have been forced by the head-quarter division.

The view is taken from the camp of the force under Major-General Sir Charles Napier, two days before the unconditional surrender of Bejar Khan and his followers.

**PLAN**  
*of the position of the*  
**Field Force, on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March, 1845.**  
*The Enemy being in Truckee.*  
 As connected with Sir C<sup>h</sup>. Napier's operations  
 against Begar Khan and the Hill and Desert Chieftains,  
 in the  
**Campaign of the early part of**  
 1845.  
 W<sup>m</sup> Edwards, Lieut 86<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>  
 E. A. D. C.

o There



*N.B. The dotted lines show the Routes taken by the several divisions in order to reach their present positions.*

**PLAN**  
*of the position of the*  
**Force, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March, 1845.**  
*before the Robber Chiefs, surrendered unconditionally*  
 as connected with Sir C<sup>h</sup>. Napier's operations  
 against Begar Khan and the Hill and Desert Chieftains  
 in the  
**Campaign of the early part of**  
 1845.  
 W<sup>m</sup> Edwards, Lieut 86<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>  
 E. A. D. C.

o There



*N.B. The dotted lines show the Routes taken by the several divisions in order to reach their several positions.*

SCALE.





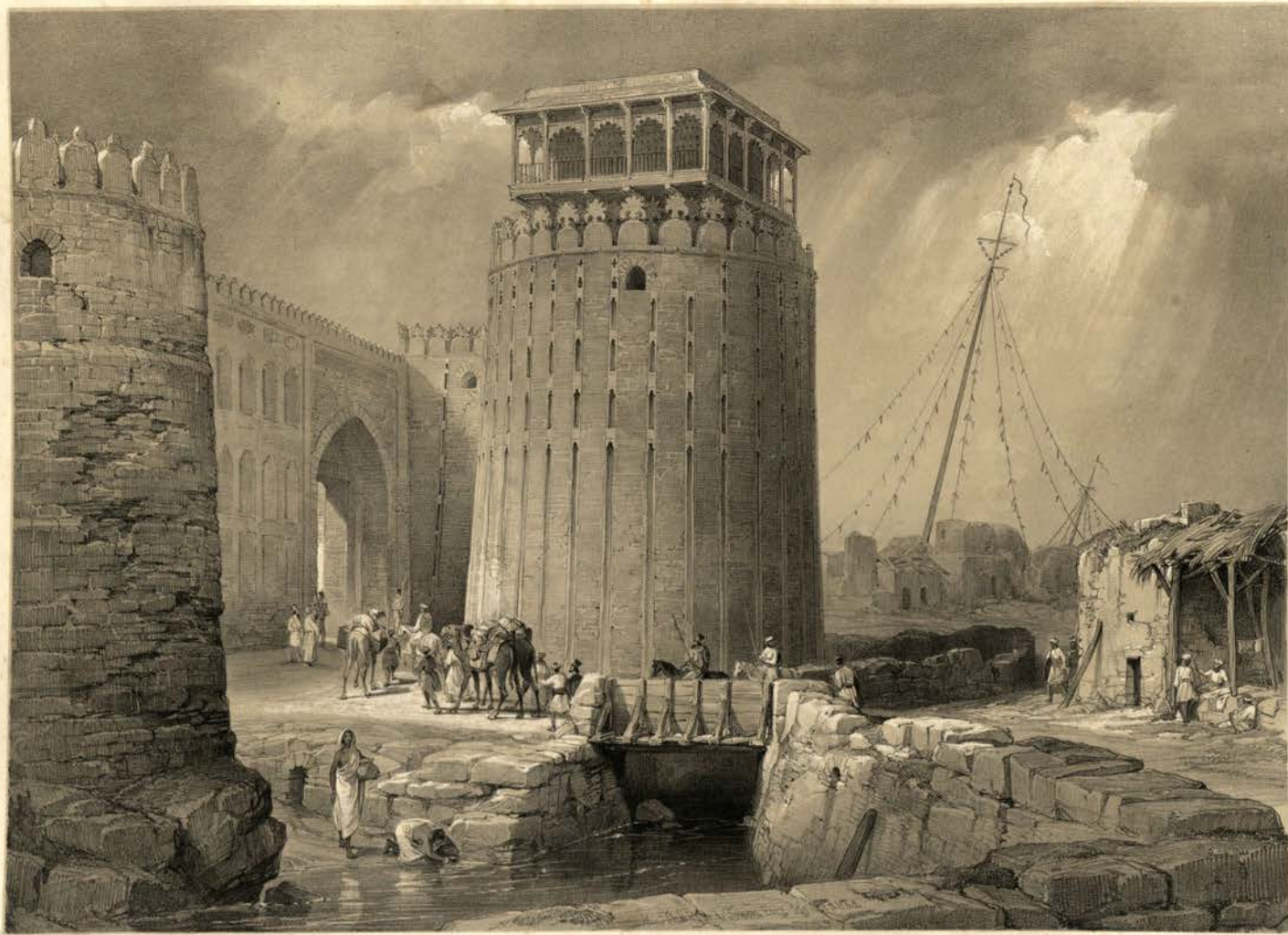
North West Face Fort Hyderabad.

NORTH WEST FACE. FORT HYDERABAD.



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HISTORY

TOMBS AT TRUCK.



THE ROUND TOWER, FORT HYDERABAD.



FROM THE TOP OF THE ROUND TOWER, FORT HYDERABAD



MAIN GATEWAY, FORT HYDERABAD.



MAIN GUARD AND GOVERNMENT HOUSE FORT HYDERABAD.



ENTRANCE TO TOWN OF SHEWAN, AND LAL SHAH BAZ'S TOMB.



ROREE ON THE INDUS



Fortress of  
Devrah

FORTRESS OF DEVRAH.



SOUTHERN ENTRANCE TO BEJAR KHAN'S STRONGHOLD, AT TRUCKEE.

