

# DEDICATION.

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TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

*HENRY DUNDAS,*

ONE OF HIS MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARIES OF STATE,  
ETC. ETC. ETC.

SIR,

TO Britain, as the mistress of India, the rest of Europe look up for knowledge of that fine country; and our fame, both as a great nation and as a scientific people, requires that this expectation should not be disappointed. When, through the valour of our arms and the wisdom of our public councils, science is advanced and useful knowledge increased, the disasters of conquests are forgotten by the philanthropist and peaceful philosopher, and the foreigner then participating in our good fortune breathes forth wishes for Britain's prosperity.

Such

Such I flattered myself were the sentiments of the British East India Company; and I expected it would have made a point of honour to encourage useful discoveries in its own vast territories so exuberant in nature's choicest productions; and would have been eager, in the present tranquillity of peace, to patronise an undertaking which should have this in view. Under these impressions I planned a Tour of Discovery through this country, principally with the design of exploring its mineralogy and physical geography, which we are hitherto totally ignorant of, and I solicited your protection and the Company's patronage in its favour. Unfortunately, I think, for Science, it met with the disapprobation of the Court of Directors, and consequently was laid aside. But from you, Sir, as the head of India affairs, as might be expected from the minister of an enlightened country, and as the representative of a city which may with peculiar propriety be considered as the seat of Science, it met with approbation and support: and to shew how highly I value this patronage, I presume to inscribe to you the following  
Work,

Work, a small tribute of gratitude indeed, but the greatest an author can pay.

I cannot avoid still indulging the hope, from the obvious advantages which may result from such an enterprise, from the protection it met with from you, from the entire approbation it received of the enlightened Chairman Mr. David Scott, and from the favourable opinion entertained of it by those conversant in India affairs, and men of science in general, that its execution may yet form one of the distinctions of your administration. Then, when Science has made known the natural riches of this extensive country, Britain will have an additional reason to glory in being its possessor.

I have the honour to be, with sentiments both of public and private gratitude,

SIR,

Your most obedient humble servant,

ROBERT TOWNSON.

DEDICATION

Work, a small volume of general interest, has been  
written by an author who has written many other

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general, that in execution, they will find  
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science has made, though the usual extent of it  
cannot be compared with the usual extent of it  
reason to glory in being responsible for the

I have the honor to be, with respect, your  
public and private servant

ROBERT TOWNSON