

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
ARCHÆOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

PART I, 1912-13.

BY
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Annual Report of the Archæological Survey of India, for the year 1912-13.

PART I.

I remarked in my last year's Report that the stimulus given by the Coronation Conservation Durbar had resulted in a display of exceptional archæological activity at Delhi. Thanks to the transfer of the Capital city, that activity, I am gratified to say, is continuing unabated, and energetic steps are now being taken to do for the whole body of monuments within the new Imperial enclave what has already been done for the most notable ones among them—namely, to put them into a state of thorough repair and lay out their surroundings in a manner worthy of the first city of India. To this end, each and every one of them is now being carefully overhauled and catalogued by Mr. G. Sanderson and his Assistant, Maulvi Zafar Hasan, and an exhaustive scheme worked out for their repair and permanent maintenance. In the meantime, the generosity of the Government of India has enabled the Department to carry out during the past twelve months some important measures among the remains at

of the paths has been raised, in order to balance the changes in levels necessitated by the water supply; the enclosure wall surrounding the tomb of Isa Khan has been rebuilt in part; an efficient drainage system has been provided to carry off water from the group of buildings at Nizamu-d-Din; the tomb of Sikandar Lodi has been provided with a new *chajja*, similar in design to the original one, and the *kaccha* huts surrounding the Khirki Masjid, some 2 miles east of the Qutb, and perhaps the most characteristic mosque of all those built during the reign of Firoz Shah Tuglaq, have been acquired and removed.

Prior to the handing over of Delhi to the Imperial Government, a scheme had been actively taken up by the Punjab Government for improving the surroundings of the Qutb, and, as a first step, the Delhi-Gurgaon Road had been diverted outside the area of the buildings. This year, the area has been fenced round and the ground within, which now extends from the south of the Alai Darwaza to a boundary line north of the unfinished *minar* of Alau-ud-Din Khalji, has been lowered to its correct levels; modern enclosure walls have been removed, and misleading paths have been relaid on more appropriate lines, while the approach roads to the enclave have also been realigned to facilitate carriage traffic, of which there is an ever-increasing amount during the cold weather. At the same time, in conformity with the scheme followed at the Delhi Fort¹, the area has been laid out with grass lawns and shrubberies which demarcate the position of the old courtyards and colonnades; arrangements have been made for a special water-supply; and the untidy thatched *dāk* bungalows and servants' quarters, which were once the first objects to meet the eye of the visitor on his arrival at the Qutb, have been entirely removed, thus throwing open to view the buildings alongside the famous *Minar*.

njab.

In the Punjab, activity among Muhammadan Monuments centred mainly round Lahore, where the chief work during the year was the improvement of the Hazuri Bagh. Till recently, this Bagh, of which Ranjit Singh's marble *Baradari* is the outstanding feature, was overplanted, and exhibited but little coherence in its design. An examination, however, of the ground brought to light remains of various fountain channels and causeways belonging apparently to the Sikh period, and in accordance with the indications which they afforded, the garden has now been divided up into four main *parterres* with water-channels and causeways between, and each of these *parterres* has been similarly sub-divided into lesser plots. At the same time, the roadway from the Roshnai Darwaza to the opening on the north side of the enclosure has been diverted so as not to interfere with the square formation of the garden; judicious planting of trees and creepers has been provided for and so arranged that the main architectural features in view—the Jami Masjid gateway, the Central Pavilion, and the Hazuri Bagh Gate of the Fort—can be seen to their full advantage, and in correct relation to one another. Besides these works further improvements have also been effected at the tomb of Nur Jahan at Shahdara (Plate II, *b*) some of the floors being relaid in *lakhauri* bricks, walls repaired, the old plaster decoration exposed, and the surroundings beautified by the laying down of lawns and terraces.

¹ The lay-out of the Delhi Fort, as it appeared in the time of the Mughals, is shown in Mr. Sanderson's admirable bird's-eye view reproduced in Plate I.

In the United Provinces, the conservation of two well-known monuments—the United Provinces. so called “Zenana” in the Allahabad Fort and the Palace of Akbar in the Agra Fort—has been brought to completion. In both cases the work has been in progress for several years, and in both cases it has been of a similar kind, involving, first, the demolition of numerous modern accretions, and, secondly, the repair of the older fabrics. In the Zenana at Allahabad the removal of whitewash, paint and structural additions made by the British, brought to light the old decorative paintings with which the interior chambers had formerly been adorned, as well as many architectural members, such as *chajjas* and parapets, that had long been lost to view. These discoveries and an engraving of the Daniell brothers, executed when the building was still intact at the close of the 18th century, rendered the work of repair a simple matter, particularly as no attempt has been made to rebuild the *chhatris* which once crowned the roof.

In the case of the Akbari Mahal, the task of making good all the damage that had been done to the halls and other apartments, had been finished in the preceding year, and it remained only to install an efficient plant for the supply of water, to lay down lawns in front of the Mahal in keeping with those of the adjacent Palace of Jahangir, and to plant shrubberies and creepers—the former to indicate the position of the old wings of the Palace now destroyed, the latter to mask the bare and unsightly walls which disfigure this corner of the Fort (Plate II, *a*). Two other enterprises at Agra also deserve notice. The first of these was the conservation of two of the old garden pavilions or *chhatris*, as they are commonly called, which stand out so prominently and form such picturesque features on the riverside north of the Ram Bagh. The second was the exposure, by the removal of modern lamps and roadways, of the deep plinths round the spacious platforms north and south of the entrance to Akbar's tomb. At the same time, the masonry of these platforms was repaired, and vast heaps of accumulated debris removed from outside the entrance, a measure which has immeasurably enhanced the imposing aspect of this Gateway.

In comparison with the expenditure on Muhammadan Monuments, the cost of repairs to Hindu and Buddhist Monuments in the Northern Circle has been relatively small, amounting to Rs. 1,011 in the Punjab and Rs. 12,960 in the United Provinces. The most important monuments in the repairer's hands were the recently excavated remains at Saheth-Maheth, the brick temple at Tinduli, three shrines at Brindaban and the Dhamekh Stupa at Sarnath. With regard to the last mentioned,

