Lord Clive's right hand man, a memoir of Colonel Francis Forde

Forde Lionel
Title: Lord Clive's right hand man, a memoir of Colonel Francis Forde

Author: Forde Lionel

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LORD CLIVE'S
RIGHT HAND MAN
"The foundation of our Empire was laid, and its subsequent aggrandisement effected by an handful of men surrounded by hostile myriads."

"A constellation of extraordinary characters, amongst whom stood prominent Clive, Lawrence, Forde and Coote, appeared in the earlier periods of the extension of our Asiatic dominions, as if decreed by fate, to erect the British Standard in the East."

_East India Military Calendar._
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PREFACE

I was first tempted to write this Memoir as a matter of family interest and as a means of employing my spare time, during the long hours of a tropical summer.

In the valuable library of the Royal Artillery Mess at St. Thomas's Mount, Madras, I found most of the authorities whom I have quoted.

The Madras Government has also most courteously assisted me to a great extent, in causing to have copied several hitherto unpublished letters written by Colonel Forde, and which letters are deposited in the record room of Fort St. George. I have also received a large amount of help from the India Office of whose records I have made very free use.

A work of this nature does not admit of much originality and, in my case, the lack of it is an advantage. Where so many independent and more qualified authorities have given their opinions regarding the acts and character
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of the subject of this Memoir, it would be out of place to offer any of mine.

For these reasons, I feel no hesitation in confessing that I have made prodigal use of all the available works to my hand; particularly so in the case of Orme's Military Transactions of the British in Indostan, which is the standard history of those times, and Malcolm's Memoir of Robert, Lord Clive. These two works have been largely used by me, as being most reliable.

Orme was a Member of Council at Madras in Clive's time and wrote his history as events occurred. Sir John Malcolm had access to the whole of Clive's public and private correspondence.

My first aim in writing this narrative did not go beyond publishing a book of extremely modest dimensions, for private circulation only; but by dint of looking through every available work and document, which narrated events of those times, I have, I trust, compiled a small book which may be of some little interest to those who have not made a regular study of the period, when England was fighting France and Holland for supremacy in Hindustan.

Owing to the fact of Colonel Forde's brilliant but short career being little known to the