

## PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

---

THE Second Edition of this work has been undertaken under circumstances to which it will be proper briefly to refer.

At the General Court of Proprietors of East-India Stock, held on the 17th, of June last, the work was noticed in terms of warm commendation, and several Members of the Court having expressed a wish that copies should be supplied to the Proprietors, the Chairman intimated that measures would be taken for the purpose. The Court of Directors, with the concurrence of the President of the Board of Commissioners for the Affairs of India, having thereupon been pleased to extend their approbation to the design, the present revised and enlarged edition of the work was forthwith commenced. The greatest care has been taken to render it not altogether unworthy of the distinguished favour which it has obtained. Every part of the work has been carefully examined with a view to the total exclusion of error; many new notes have been introduced; the Acts of the British Parliament are brought down to the close of the last Session, and those of the Government of India to the latest period to which they have been received. Many other additions have been made, tending greatly to increase the value of the work. Among the more important may be mentioned the introduction, at the suggestion of an influential Proprietor, of the By-Laws of the Company. It will also be observed, that the Statutes affecting the Queen's Courts in India, and the

Ecclesiastical Establishment in that country, are now illustrated by the insertion of the necessary portions of various Letters Patent from the Crown, under which their respective authorities are exercised.

The practical utility of a work like the present must greatly depend upon the facilities of reference which it offers. Under this impression, a new Index has been prepared for the present Edition, which, whether in regard to accuracy, copiousness, or convenient arrangement, will, it is confidently hoped, be found entirely satisfactory to all who may have occasion to consult the work.

*London, 9th December, 1840*