

PREFACE.

THIS volume being the commencement of a new series, I am anxious to say a few words with reference to the motive which directed my present choice. Little is commonly known of the Mohammedan history of India, and this because the means of information are not readily accessible to the general reader. It therefore occurred to me, that a series of volumes embracing a portion of history with which, though extremely interesting, the large majority of persons are not familiar, would be opening a new source of knowledge, agreeable to many in search of information as well as amusement.

The volumes of the *ORIENTAL ANNUAL* already published are better calculated, upon the whole, to amuse than instruct; at the same time, they were intended to convey that sort of instruction to be derived from an