

LIVES  
OF THE  
MOGHUL EMPERORS.

---

TIMŪR BEG.

---

CHAPTER I.

A.D. 1336—1354.

PERHAPS there is no character in history which has been represented under such various aspects of high moral excellence, and of extreme moral deformity, as that of Timūr Beg, Emperor of the Moghuls, more commonly known to European readers under the name of Tamerlane. It is a difficult thing to trace the true lineaments of eminent persons of remote ages in the pictures given by historians; as all who have distinguished themselves by the splendour of their achievements have their detractors as well as their admirers; it is consequently no easy matter to reach the naked truth between the wilful misrepresentations of the one and the exaggerated eulogies of the other. There is one tolerably sure guide, however,—the actions of men are an infallible test where these are brought before us in their severe and undisguised reality; but even here there are the glosses of friends and the warpings of enemies to be removed, before we can contemplate the

B