VIEWS OF

NEPAL

1851–1864
HENRY AMBROSE OLDFIELD

MARGARET ALICIA OLDFIELD

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NEPAL

1851-1864

RATNA PUSTAK BHANDAR

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VIEWS OF NEPAL 1851-1864

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INTRODUCTION

Henry Ambrose Oldfield (1822-1871), having served in the Indian Medical Service in various parts of India from 1846, was eventually posted as British Residency Surgeon in Nepal in 1850. He worked in this country until retirement in 1868. He married Margaret Alicia Prescot (1835-1928) while he was on leave in England in 1856. Three of the couple’s six children were born in Nepal.

Some sketches by both husband and wife, H. A. Oldfield and M. A. Oldfield, are reproduced in the present volume. In a time when photography was too cumbersome for travellers, it appears that many British men and women studied drawing and painting before departure for overseas assignments. For the men, sketching was often important for official purposes; and for the women, artistic pursuits were frequently pastimes for long unoccupied hours. The works in this book were evidently done during the leisure time of both artists.

The originals of these reproductions are kept in the India Office Library in London, England. Those marked in the text with an asterisk (*) are pieces included in Sketches from Nipal by Dr. H. A. Oldfield, published in two volumes in London, 1880. The numbers in brackets in the captions refer to the catalogue numbers as listed in British Drawings in the India Office Library by Mildred Archer (London, 1969). Captions in quotation marks (" ) are quoted from this catalogue, and usually refer to the title or description written on the drawings by the artists themselves. The sizes are those of the originals, and the vertical measurement is given first. Drawings by Margaret A. Oldfield are marked by the initials M.A.O.

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