



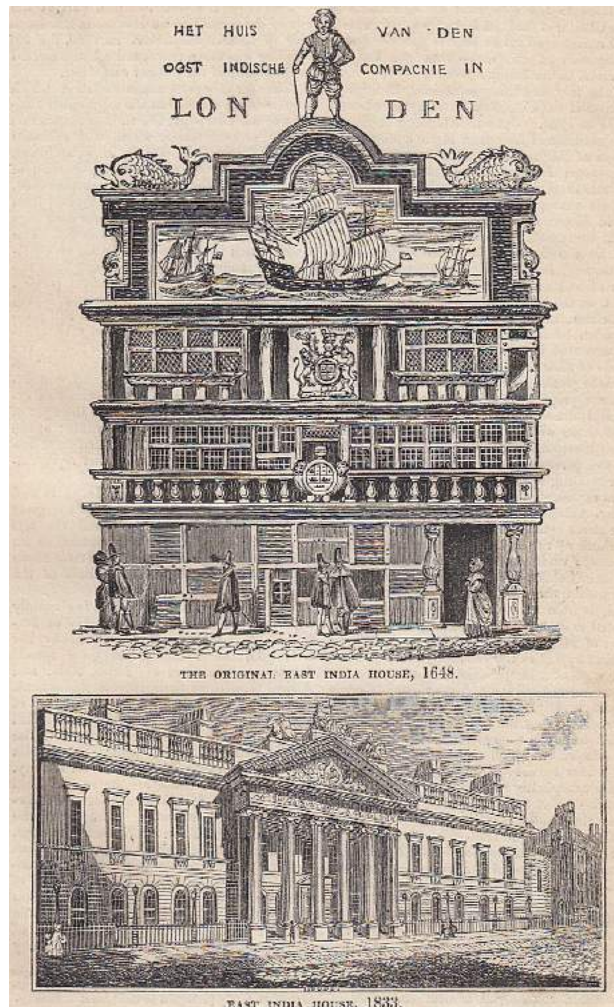
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There are papers concerning the Charter of the Company, the size of its military force, trade with China and India, its methods of Government, the revenues to the British Crown, the Indian Mutiny, and its aftermath. In particular there is very strong coverage of the affairs of the Company in the key period following the loss of its independence from the British Crown in 1813 with the East India Company Act, and the diminution of its monopoly in the subsequent years, through to the events of the Indian Mutiny and the near destruction of the company within India and the British establishment. There are fascinating pieces on Lord Valentia's travels in India (1809), Steam Navigation to India; its physical, political and economic implications (1833), upon the investigations into the use of torture in the aftermath of the mutiny (1856), the Indian Judiciary (1869), and there are five later publications (1900-1955) putting historical details, such as a List of the Directors of the Company to 1858, and historical overviews.

There is significant virtue in this collection for presenting the public debate of almost the entire 19th century surrounding the Company, and creates a greater understanding of the economic, social, and political influences than can be understood merely by reading an historical study. This material burns with the freshness of the moment it is written in, with the growth and development of the company seen through external and influential eyes (Mill, Smith, McCulloch, et al) and the subsequent evolution to the British Raj and the pressures and intrigue that direct control brought to the British government. Much of this material has been ignored or at best skimmed over in the standard histories yet brilliantly encapsulates Georgian and Victorian Britain's fascination with this most successful element of Empire, and it provides the opportunity for much further study and fresh commentary on Indian history.

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