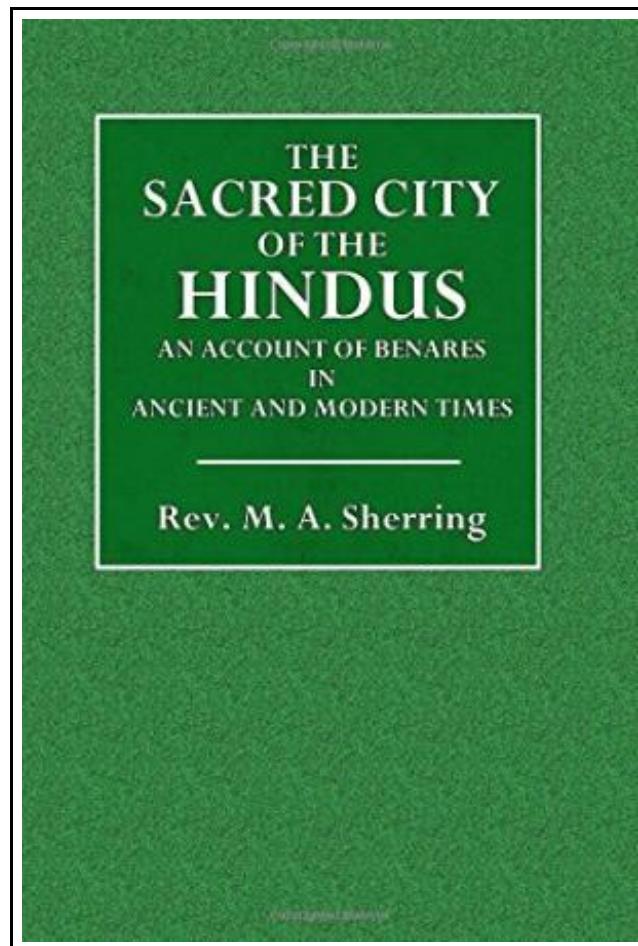


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Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.From the PREFACE. The history of a country is sometimes epitomized in the history of one of its principal cities. The city of Benares represents India, religiously and intellectually, just as Paris represents the political sentiments of France. There are few cities in the world of greater antiquity, and none that have so uninterruptedly maintained their ancient celebrity and distinction. In Benares, Buddhism was first promulgated; in Benares, Hinduism has had her home in the bosom of her most impassioned votaries. This city, therefore, has given impulse and vigour to the two religions which to this day govern half the world. An account of a city of such remarkable associations, which has occupied such a prominent place in the annals of the human race, is not without its importance, and ought not to be devoid of interest. Having resided in it for several years, I have enjoyed peculiarly favourable opportunities for becoming acquainted with its inner life and character. The task I have set myself is not that of discussing the religious systems existing there, which -would be an unnecessary undertaking, it having been so frequently accomplished by abler hands, - but of giving a representation of Benares as she was in the past, and as she is in the present. Her early condition, her connexion with ancient Buddhism - her architectural remains - her famous temples, holy wells and tanks, and numerous ghats or stairs leading down to the Ganges - the legends concerning them - the peculiar customs at the temples - the ceremonies of the idolater - the modes of worship - the religious festivals, and other topics, illustrative of the character...

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