

pledged to pay annual taxes to the British king in increasing amounts. Clive's request was granted by the King.

Itesamuddin appreciated British patriotism and nationalism and had regrets about the complete absence of it among the Indians, particularly among the elite and the rulers. He states that during the time of war, the British king calls upon the well-to-do to come forward with loans for the defense of the country. The people happily provided this because the money is returned in installments with interest and defeat in war might lead to loss of their own property and position.

For the benefit of his countrymen, Itesamuddin recorded his observations about London, its streets, the wide Westminster Bridge and Cathedral, the Museum, the king's palace, and the type of houses that people lived in. Regarding civic facilities, he mentions London's water supply system: from distant water falls, water is brought to the outskirts of the city through canals and kept in a huge water storage facility lined with stones, then brought to the city streets by metal pipes. People bring it inside homes though pipes and store in tanks. Water is released once a week. Some people also dig wells in their house for supplementing their water supply. Refuse is collected from the homes of people regularly for which a fee is levied. Anybody throwing trash into the streets is fined. He did not omit to tell his readers that at the beginning of his visit local people, who had not seen a man from India before, would look out of windows and children would come out into streets seeing a strange creature like him in funny clothing. They would often mistake him to be a woman dancer. As they got used to him, he was treated with courtesy and hospitality and regarded as a nobleman from India.

He admired work ethics of the British where earning livelihood by the sweat of one's brow is respected. Itesamuddin was happy to see large buildings dedicated to orphanages where hundreds of little children without parents or those born out of wedlock are sheltered, trained and given health care. When they become adults, many are given jobs in local governments or found jobs in private sector such as in ships etc.

He used to be invited to some parties where he met high ranking people who asked him questions concerning his religion and traditions. Because he was staying abroad alone for a prolonged period, he was once asked why he was not taking a wife. To which his reply was that women of higher class would not want him and being an aristocrat in his own country, he could not take a wife from the lower class. This was appreciated by his questioners. There are many other interesting anecdotes in his book.

He narrates an amusing story from the highlands in Scotland, which he also visited. A villager had eaten grilled liver in a town and enquired from a chef about the recipe and way to cook it. He wrote these down and bought some liver from a butcher. As he was going home to prepare the kabob, a dog followed him, snatched the packet containing the meat and ran away. Irritated, the man jeered at the dog saying that the animal will not have any benefit because the cooking instructions were still in his pocket. This may have been an English joke at the cost of the Scots, but Itesamuddin drew the obvious conclusion that in every country, even in England, there were many simpletons around and their numbers may be great.

His friends wanted Itesamuddin to stay a couple of years more in England to teach young people Farsi language and offered generous allowances. He however declined because of attachment to his country and relations. He returned to India after a long sojourn in England of a total, including the journey time, of two years and seven months.