

CHAPTER IV

SHAH AKBAR THE GREAT, EMPEROR OF
HINDUSTAN (A.D. 1555-1605)

THE book of the *Thousand-Nights and a Night* begins with these words: "Verily the works and words of those gone before us have become instances and examples to men of our modern day, that folk may view what admonishing chances befel other folk, and may therefrom take warning; and that they may peruse the annals of antique peoples, and all that hath betided them, and be thereby ruled and restrained. Praise therefore be to Allah who hath made the histories of the Past an admonition unto the Present." The works and words of Akbar are worthy to be instances and examples and even admonitions unto the present.

By command of the Emperor Akbar his *wazir*, Abul-fazl, wrote the history of his life,