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JOURNEY  
THROUGH  
ASIA MINOR, ARMENIA,  
AND  
KOORDISTAN.

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JOURNEY

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THROUGH

ASIA MINOR, ARMENIA,

AND

KOORDISTAN,

IN THE YEARS 1813 AND 1814;

WITH REMARKS ON THE

MARCHES OF ALEXANDER,

AND RETREAT OF

THE TEN THOUSAND.

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BY

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TOWN MAJOR OF FORT ST. GEORGE;

AND POLITICAL AGENT AT THE DURBAR OF HIS HIGHNESS

THE NABOB OF THE CARNATIC.

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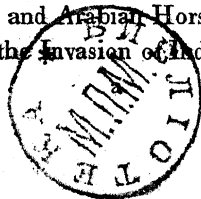
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## INTRODUCTION.

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THE only object I have in view in offering this desultory book of Travels to the public is to contribute as much as lies in my power towards the general stock of geographical knowledge, and I presume to hope that an account of my researches may not prove altogether uninteresting.

I embarked at Harwich for Gottenburg, at the commencement of the year 1813, in company with Sir Neil (then Colonel) Campbell, intending to proceed through Sweden and Russia to Constantinople. But the disastrous retreat of Napoleon from Moscow having in the mean time opened a more direct road, I joined the head quarters of his Majesty the Emperor Alexander, then in pursuit of the French, and from Dresden resumed my journey to Turkey by Vienna.

It was my determination, on quitting England, to visit all the countries through which a European army might attempt the invasion of India, and, in prosecution of this plan, to explore the north-eastern parts of Persia, and the vast plains which stretch beyond the Oxus towards the confines of the Russian empire. But successive attacks of severe indisposition, and my unexpected recal to Madras, compelled me to desist from this undertaking. The late publication of Mr. Mountstewart Elphinstone is replete with valuable information regarding Cabul and our north-western frontier; but it were doubtless to be wished that we possessed some personal knowledge of the state and resources of so large and populous a kingdom as Bockhara, which from its situation must ever be considered as a most important barrier to the encroachments of Russia towards our oriental possessions.

This work was completed after my return to Madras, during the few leisure moments which could be spared from the laborious duties of my official situations, and would have been much more perfect had I not lost many valuable notes taken

by

by the pirates with my baggage in the Persian gulf. I have preserved its original shape of a journal, as being more simple, and at the same time better calculated to afford a just idea of the customs of the people and the mode of travelling in this part of the world.

I am indebted to Mr. Arrowsmith for the projection and general outlines of the Map, as well as for all those parts not visited by myself or friends; and I feel gratified in availing myself of this opportunity to express my obligations to that excellent geographer for the assistance I have invariably received from him. The countries embraced and described in my journal are laid down from manuscript documents in my possession, and from astronomical observations taken by myself and Mr. Chavasse, corrected and compared by the road distances. The journies of each day were regularly entered in a book, (first by myself, and afterwards by my lamented companion Mr. Chavasse,) which exhibited the directions of the roads, the situations of villages, the courses of rivers and mountains, and the bearings and distances of great natural features.

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The eastern part of the Map is taken from that which I published with my Persian Memoir in 1813, but it contains many alterations and corrections from additional information obtained in my late expedition. The routes of my friends are marked in blue, and those performed by myself on this occasion, as well as formerly, when I accompanied Sir John Malcolm's mission to Persia, are noted in red. These routes will be found to occupy a considerable space on the surface of the Map, and many of them, I had almost said the majority, lead through countries never before traversed by any European since the days of Alexander the Great.

The latitudes of Angora, Ofium Kara Hissar, Ooscat, Cæsarea, Iconium, Adana, and Antioch have been fixed from my own meridional observations, which almost constantly correspond with the road distance. Their longitudes I had no means of ascertaining with nicety, and I have therefore adopted those assigned by Mr. Arrow-smith, corrected by my own bearings and cross routes.

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The position of Costamboul was established, in point of latitude, by the mean of a series of meridional altitudes, and we endeavoured to settle the longitude by observations for time, but the watch varied so much, that I fear little or no reliance can be placed on the results. The coast of the Black Sea, from Samsoun to Trebisonde, was surveyed with great exactness by Mr. Chavasse, and determined by astronomical observations at Tereboli, Unieh, and Trebisonde. The latitudes of Byaboot, Erzeroom, Lees, Betlis, and Merdin were ascertained with tolerable accuracy, and enabled us to lay down our route from Trebisonde to Merdin. In this latter journey we had not only ascertained, in a great measure, the courses of the principal rivers which contribute towards the formation of the Euphrates and Tigris, but discovered the lakes of Nazook and Shello, not mentioned by any modern author, and described that of Van, of which some had begun to doubt the existence. The bearings of the Tigris from Mosul to Bagdad have been laid down, and the ruins on its banks marked with care and attention.

I have

I have given the ancient names, because many of them are alluded to in my Itinerary, and have endeavoured to illustrate, from the respective historians, the expeditions of Xenophon, Alexander, (as far as the limits of the Map will admit,) Julian, and Heraclius. The former may, I think, be traced with tolerable exactness, but the long and varied marches of Heraclius can only be followed with extreme difficulty.

I gladly embrace the present occasion to acknowledge my debt of gratitude to my friend Mr. Rich, the resident of Bagdad, to Dr. Hine the first assistant, and to Mr. Colquhoun, the acting resident of Bussora, for their remarks and communications, as well as to Lieutenant Swanson of the Madras establishment, for his advice in the construction of the Map, and to Robert Anderson, Esq. of the Madras civil service, and J. Crawford, Esq. for their assistance in the revision of the work.

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# J O U R N E Y,

&c. &c.

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## VIENNA, THROUGH HUNGARY, TO CONSTANTINOPLE.

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ON the 10th of April, A. D. 1813, I quitted the head-quarters of His Majesty the Emperor Alexander, and on the 1st of May reached the Austrian metropolis, where the dismantled walls seen from the windows of the imperial palace only tended to nurse that lively feeling of resentment against the French which then pervaded the best classes of society at Vienna. I enjoyed but fifteen days the pleasures of this capital, and, quitting it with extreme reluctance on the morning of the 16th, pursued my journey along the right bank of the Danube, which flows majestically through a beautiful country, and amidst many a wooded island. The river is bounded on the south by the mountains of Hungary; castles, convents, and flourishing villages studded the plain, and the romantic town of Hainburgh, with its ancient château, has since become remarkable as the retire-

ment of Madame Murat, the sister of Napoleon and ex-Queen of Naples. I was stopped about half way between Hainburgh and Kitsee to shew my passport at the barrier on the Austrian frontier, and perceived, on the brow of an eminence on the left hand, the palaces of Presburgh looking down upon the wide and sandy plains of Hungary. We were driven with great speed fifty-four miles, through a flat and sandy country affording good pasture and interspersed with wood, to the straggling town of Raab; this town stands on a river of the same name, and was the scene of a bloody action between the French and Austrians in the war of 1809. From Raab to Goeng the road ran on the borders of the Danube, here about four hundred yards wide, and which is navigated by vessels similar to those on the Bocca Tigris in China. It was two stages from Goeng to Comorn, a fortified town, and thence to Nessmul eleven miles, still along the banks of the Danube. The houses and villages are clean and neatly built, and for the most part distinguished over the plain by the spires of their churches. The territory between Nessmul and Buda, a distance of forty-seven miles, was covered with flocks, and became hilly as we approached the ancient capital of Hungary. This city occupies a narrow belt about two miles and a half in length, and extends partly on the summit and partly on the declivity of a ridge of hills which line the right bank of the Danube. The houses are old and almost deserted;  
but

but the palace where Prince Joseph of Austria, the Palatine of Hungary, resides, is a handsome structure, on an eminence, commanding a prospect of the windings of the river and the commercial town of Peste immediately opposite. The latter is one of the best built, most opulent, and most active cities in the emperor's dominions; it contains many handsome private edifices and extensive warehouses, and is remarkable for the magnificence of its theatre, which opens behind upon the Danube, and exhibits the boats on that river to the view of the audience. Buda and Peste together are said to contain sixty thousand inhabitants, of which number twenty thousand are Greeks and ten thousand Jews engaged in an extensive trade with Turkey and the ports of the Adriatic. I measured the Danube at the bridge of boats which divides the two towns and reckoned its breadth at about four hundred yards: it was deep and rapid, and covered with small vessels which can sail from Ratisbon to the Euxine.

My first stage from Buda was Saraksoor, a town consisting of a single street, about three quarters of a mile in length and two hundred yards in breadth; the houses, with a few exceptions, are of the same size and built longitudinally, presenting the gable end to the street, and separated from each other by small gardens planted with shrubs and trees. It was seventeen miles hence to Inones, a solitary mansion in a low swampy tract

covered with a coarse kind of grass. We changed horses twice between Inones and Ketchemet, a small town containing two churches and a convent: and hence to Chophosa, a distance of nineteen miles, we passed over a sandy country in an improved state of culture, where abundance and cleanliness were every where conspicuous.

Segedin, thirty-nine miles still more in advance, owes, as well as Ketchemet, its name to the Turks, and is a small town famous for the cultivation of tobacco. I was surprized to hear the people in the yard of the auberge talking Latin, but found on inquiry that it is a language in common use amongst the peasants, who claim their descent from the Romans, and who have a bolder and more martial air than their brethren in the northern parts of the kingdom. The lower orders of the peasantry have a sheep skin thrown over their left shoulder instead of a pelisse; their locks, long and disheveled, hang over their ears and forehead, and they wear a lambskin cap similar to that of the Tatars and Persians.\* We left Segedin at the close of the evening, and having travelled twenty-nine miles in the course of the night, were ferried across the great river Aranga, and reached at eight in the morning the village of Mokrin in the province of Banat. We rapidly passed the three re-

\* Boots are invariably worn even by the women in Hungary, a custom common to the pastoral tribes of the east.