

TRAVELS
IN
TURKEY, EGYPT, NUBIA,
AND
PALESTINE.

VOL. I.

TRAVELS
IN
TURKEY, EGYPT, NUBIA,
AND
PALESTINE,

IN 1824, 1825, 1826, AND 1827.

BY
R. R. MADDEN, ESQ. M. R. C. S.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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DEDICATION.

TO

M. MONTEFIORE, ESQ.

SIR,

I BEG leave to dedicate to you the following pages, descriptive of those countries in which I have been sojourning for some years past. Were they worthier of your sanction I should feel less diffidence in prefixing to them a name which is honoured wherever it is known.

It is not the least pleasing recollection of my “travel’s history” that we have been, for some months, associates, albeit in the encounter of peril and fatigue: and it is not the least ardent of my hopes, that your acquaintance with many

of the scenes which I have introduced, may enable you to recognise the fidelity of their description.

I pray you to accept this trifling tribute of my respect and gratitude,

And believe me to be,

SIR,

Your very obedient Servant,

R. R. M.

9, BOLTON ROW,
May 23, 1829.

P R E F A C E.

It is not with a view of deprecating criticism that I advert to the difficulty of combining accurate observation with literary elegance. Lady M. W. Montagu failed in this respect; the refinement of her enthusiasm prevailed over the correctness of her descriptions.

For the last four years I have been sojourning in various provinces of Turkey in Europe, Asia, and Africa. As a medical man I had ample opportunities of ascertaining the state of society in those countries; and I have only to regret that my avocations have not suffered me to give my experience in a better form. My Letters are compiled from notes, often taken in haste, and sometimes by stealth, in order to avoid the suspicion of writing incantations.

It will not do to traverse the Wilderness with a camel load of learning for reference ; and it is difficult to carry Herodotus and Hamilton, Strabo and Sir W. Gell, Pococke and Pausanias in one small head, albeit enveloped in a large turban. I therefore affect not to be a learned traveller : men and manners have been my study, rather than monuments and ruins. I have visited the sites of Troy and Memphis, Thebes and Jerusalem, rather to behold the desolation that surrounds their remains, and to speculate on the former splendour of these renowned cities, than to measure their shattered pillars, and to design their crumbling structures.

Few who have not visited the East can have an adequate idea of the many obstacles that stand in the way of scientific research. It has been my fate to have been taken for a spy in Syria—to have endangered my life in Candia, for refusing to administer poison—to have been shot at in Canea twice, and once on the Nile,

by Turkish soldiers—to have been accused of changing the fragments of a broken statue into gold at Thebes—to have been charged with sorcery in Nubia, for showing an old woman her own frightful image in a pocket mirror—and to have been a captive with Greek pirates, for wearing a long beard, when taken in a vessel bearing Turkish property. Such annoyances, and many others, arising from fatigue and sickness, the traveller has to calculate upon, and endeavour to surmount by his patience and philosophy.

It is inconceivable how far ferocity and fanaticism may be subdued by good temper and good humour. I have been on terms of familiarity, if not of friendship, with Turks and Arabs, whose arrogance and violence kept other Franks in awe. In Syria I was repeatedly in the hands of banditti; and to good humour I am alone indebted for making “thieves of mercy” of those who proved pitiless enough to other travellers. I mention these apparently

unimportant facts, to evince the necessity of an unruffled temper and a cheerful demeanour, in countries where peevishness and pride only tend to exasperate the lawless inhabitants. It is a notorious fact, that English travellers are often particularly unfortunate, and this is but too frequently owing to a haughty carriage and uncompromising manners.

It is melancholy to reflect how many travellers fall victims to diseases which are remediable enough under proper treatment. In the succeeding pages the Eastern traveller may find a few practical remarks on the epidemic disorders of Egypt and Arabia, calculated to afford him some security from the scourges of the Levant.

In the following Letters I pretend not to give any very detailed descriptions, but simply to explain such things as I had the best opportunity of becoming acquainted with.

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