

# TRAVELS

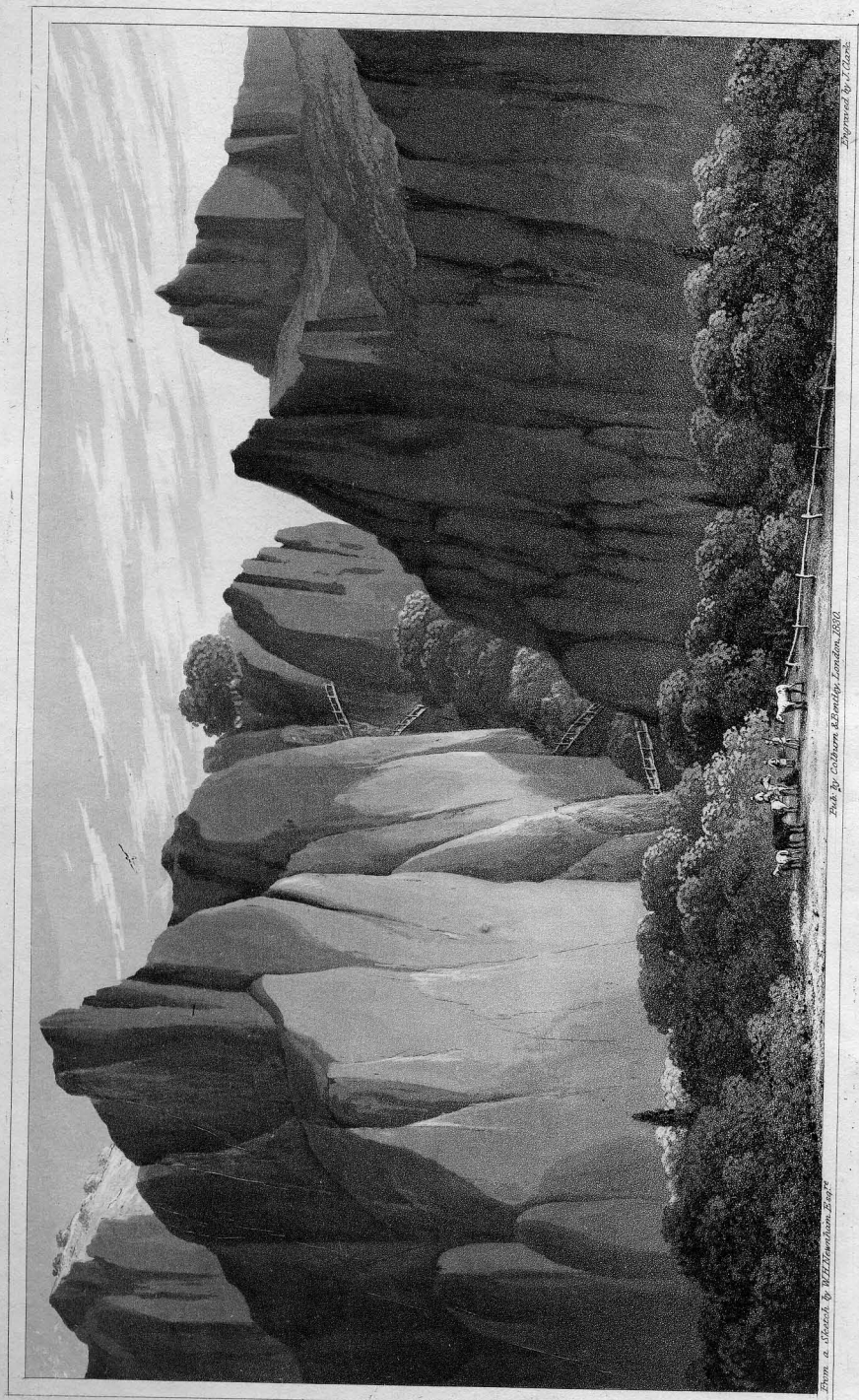
THROUGH

THE CRIMEA, TURKEY, AND EGYPT,

&c.

LONDON :

SHACKELL AND BAYLIS, JOHNSON'S-COURT, FLEET-STREET



From a sketch by W. H. Harrison Esq.

Engr. by Colburn & Bentley London 1852

# PASS OF MEERDVEEN.

Designed by J. Clark.

W 339  
133

# TRAVELS

THROUGH

## THE CRIMEA, TURKEY,

AND

## EGYPT;

PERFORMED DURING THE YEARS 1825—1828:

INCLUDING PARTICULARS OF

THE LAST ILLNESS AND DEATH OF THE EMPEROR ALEXANDER,  
AND OF THE RUSSIAN CONSPIRACY IN 1825.

BY THE LATE

JAMES WEBSTER, ESQ.

OF THE INNER TEMPLE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

XXIV - 654

LONDON:

HENRY COLBURN AND RICHARD BENTLEY,  
NEW BURLINGTON STREET.

1830.



TO  
MRS. WEBSTER,  
THESE VOLUMES  
ARE  
RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,  
BY THE EDITOR.

## P R E F A C E.

---

It is to be much regretted, that these Volumes were not given to the world by Mr. Webster himself. Under such circumstances, the account of the countries through which he travelled would have been probably somewhat more particular and satisfactory. Mr. Webster's notes, moreover, though abundant, were often difficult to be deciphered, and the more indulgence should, therefore, be extended to his Editor. The Work, however, contains such a mass of valuable information on subjects but little known, that it cannot fail of being highly acceptable to the public.

The Editor desires to express his acknowledgments to Dr. Lee for some most valuable informa-

tion, and also to Mr. W. H. Newnham who was Mr. Webster's travelling companion, and on all occasions has evinced the utmost readiness to give every elucidation the Editor could desire. Mr. Newnham has just published a series of drawings of Mount Sinai, (under the title of "Illustrations of the Exodus") which throw considerable light on that small portion of Mr. Webster's Work which is devoted to the Holy Mountain of the Christian World.

## CONTENTS OF VOL. I.

---

	Page
PREFACE . . . . .	vii
MEMOIR OF MR. JAMES WEBSTER . . . . .	i
NOTES ON THE NETHERLANDS . . . . .	cxxi

### CHAPTER I.

Trieste—Austrian Police—German Honesty—Grotto of Adelsberg —Cilli—State of the Peasantry—Gratz—Arrival at Vienna . . .	1
---	---

### CHAPTER II.

Vienna—Arsenals—Church of St. Augustine—Imperial Library— —Cabinet d'Amboise—Castle of Schönbrun—Castle of Laxen- bourg—Route from Vienna to Presburg—Hungarian Diet at Presburg—Return to Vienna—Route through Moravia and Silesia to Cracow . . . . .	13
---	----



## CHAPTER III.

Cracow—Dilapidation and Wretchedness of the City—the Cathedral—Tombs of the Polish Kings—Population of Cracow—Weilicksa—Jew and Peasant bargaining at the Fair—Salt Mines of Weilicksa—Lemberg—Brody—Police Abuses on the Frontier—Jamboul—Appearance of the Country—Agriculture—Miserable Inns on the Road—Ignorance of the Clergy—Synderow—Count G.—Tulcin Potocki Palace—Superstition of the Peasantry—Potocki—Odessa . . . . .	22
--	----

## CHAPTER IV.

Odessa—Political Appearances—Greek Marriage—Route from Odessa to Symferapol—Sultana Katti Gheri—General Bachmaccoff's Gardens near Sablis—Anecdote of Mad. de Staël—Country between Symferapol and Alushta—Tartar Hospitality and Superstition—Alushta—Ascent of the Tscheterdag—Tartar Women . . . . .	42
---	----

## CHAPTER V.

Tartar Cottage—Couchut Lampat—General Borozdin—His Complaints of Clarke's Misrepresentations—Russian Government of the Crimea—Keesiltash (the Red Rock)—Legend connected with it—Count Woronzow's Gardens—Nikita—Aloupka: Extraordinary Beauty of the Gardens—Pass of Meerdveen—Tartar Women—Valley of Moscomia—Balaclava, Greek Village—Convent of St. George—Caverns of Inkerman—Excavations—Return to Sevastopoli . . . . .	59
--	----

## CHAPTER VI.

Ruins of Chersonesus—Batchiserai—Palace of the Khans—Excursion to Tchufutkali—Tombs of the Khans at Batchiserai—Mul-lah calling to Prayer—Reflections on Tartar Life and Manners..	75
--	----

## CHAPTER VII.

Symferapol—Complaints against the Inaccuracy of English Travel- lers—Locusts—Superstition for exterminating them—Disregard of the Russians for Antiquities found in the Crimea—Punishment of the Knout—Russian Officer—Dress of the Russian Peasantry Route to Nicolaef—Admiral Greig—Clarke—Lyall—Odessa— Abuses at the Passport Office—Effect of Count Pahlen's Inter- ference—Departure for Constantinople . . . . .	92
---	----

## CHAPTER VIII.

Entering the Bosphorus—First View of Constantinople—Its out- ward Magnificence and internal Misery—News of the Battle of Navarino—Alarm of the Franks—Turkish Forbearance—Views of Constantinople—Turkish Costume . . . . .	102
--	-----

## CHAPTER IX.

Excursion to Pirgos—Aqueduct of Andronicus—Pirgos—Sabbath Rejoicings—Return to Constantinople—Site of Ancient Chalce- don—Bazaar—Sultan returning from the Mosque—Turkish Coffee Houses—Great Cemetery—Dogs—Opinion of the British Ambassador concerning the Sultan's intention on first hearing of the Navarino Victory . . . . .	118
---	-----

## CHAPTER X.

Armenian Church—Expression used by the Sultan concerning the Designs of Russia—Religious Toleration of the Turks—Shipping —Dance of Dervishes—Tomb of Abdulhamed—Palace of the Grand Vizier—Entry to the Seraglio—St. Sophia—Mosque of Achmet—Antient Subterranean Reservoir—Column of Marcian —Slaughter of the Janissaries—Aqueduct of the Emperor Va- lens—Delay in procuring Tescheries for leaving Constantinople .	132
--	-----

## CHAPTER XI.

Rumours of the Departure of the Ambassadors—Leaving Constantinople—Abydos—The Dardanelles—Interview with Mehemet Pacha—Plains of Troy—The Scamander—Smyrna—Arrival at Alexandria—Disgusting Filth of the Suburbs . . . . .	148
--	-----

# MEMOIR

OF

MR. JAMES WEBSTER.

---

THE way to distinction, in the present day, is toilsome and difficult. Reputations, formerly, were much more easily attained than they are in this season of general education: for, formerly, the manners, habits, and moral condition of the people, militated against intellectual advancement. In the time of Henry VIII., for instance, Latin literature was in no degree cultivated, and the Greek language in great disrepute, as the society denominated the Trojans, established by the students at Oxford, for the purpose of counteracting the slightest desire for its cultivation, will sufficiently testify. Learning and intellect are

always commensurate with political freedom. The Turk, the Egyptian, the Neapolitan, and the Austrian, for example, are amongst the most slothful, and most stupid of living beings. In Spain, the loftiest flights of mind have been immediately consequent on free action and chivalrous excitement, ere it could subside into a consciousness of the galling tyranny of kings and Inquisition. In Germany, little virtue has come forth from the capital of the descendants of the House of Hapsburg, save in the department of Oriental learning. This last could hardly be otherwise, when their situation on the map of Europe is considered: oriental learning is absolutely necessary for the furtherance of their diplomacy. Von Hammer's History of the Turks, therefore, is quite in place; but Frederick Schlegel yielded to the contagion of the intellectual Sybaris, and became a Papist. Matters of fact, statistics, and science, are principally attended to in Berlin—very little opportunity being offered by the wary government of Frederick, for the range of imagination, or the wild speculations of fanciful theorists. The small principalities have been the true fosterers of intellect: Göttingen will be ever famous in the annals of learning, and Weimar—happy Weimar—possessed at the same moment the enthusiastic Schiller, and Goethe, in whom nature and art are so justly poised, that he may well be revered by the world as a perfect man. If we regard France, it will be visible

that mind gave little evidence of its moral existence until the times of Montaigne and Rabelais—the agitated period of reform, pyrronism, and unbelief. “And in England,” says Mr. Sharon Turner, “the improbability of human nature is strongly displayed in the course of British History.”\* Philosophical disquisitions produced no practical effect and benefit, until the time of the Great Bacon: with whom, and Spencer, and Marlowe, begins the really useful history of English intellect. The wars of the Edwards and Henrys in the provinces of France, afforded means of cultivating our national manners, and improving our national language; the wars of the White and Red Roses had an opposite tendency, and seemed, for the moment, to brutalize the national mind,—this effect ever being the natural consequence of all long continued hostilities between desperate *factions*. But the great Civil War, which was a contest between the upper and middle *orders* of society, excited the energies of intellect, and, accordingly, men of first-rate capacity made their appearance in the arena of action. From that period, to the present time, mind, in this country, has been

\* History of England, p. 515, Vol. I. The reader cannot but smile, if he will take the trouble to turn to p. 502 of the same volume, and read the different names given by their contemporaries to the doctors and philosophers of England. Notwithstanding the egregious faults in style, the histories of Mr. Turner are, to every unprejudiced student, amongst the most valuable books in the English language.

making rapid strides towards the attainment of perfection.

But every possible circumstance has, amongst ourselves, been instrumental in its advancement; most especially so, our national liberties, our mixed government, and the participation, common to every Englishman, in the chances of distinction. The prizes of life are attainable by all men, and the competition in the race for eminent place being unceasing, the industry and toil necessary to that end must be in proportion to the number of the candidates.

Among the multitude of these 'racers for high fortune' may be introduced the subject of this brief memoir. His life has indeed few incidents which are worthy of record, but, like the biography of Henry Kirke White, or any other young man, yielding obedience to similarly praiseworthy impulses, it will, when duly considered, have, it is to be hoped, its beneficial effect. Such pieces of biography serve as beacons to enlighten the path of young night-wanderers amidst the mazes of difficulty; they will be balm and encouragement to such as, like young Vitalis, of Sweden, or Louisa Brachmann, of Germany, or Lucretia Davidson, of America, waste and destroy the native vigour of their minds from an eager desire to outstrip and escape from the pursuing spectres of doubt, despondency, and despair. They teach the useful and redeeming lesson, that man cannot attain perfection by the