

**THE NATIONAL
SONGS AND LEGENDS
OF ROUMANIA**

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The National Songs and Legends of Roumania by E. C. Grenville Murray

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E. C. GRENVILLE MURRAY

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* * * *The Author of this Work reserves to himself the right of
authorising a translation of it.*

THE
NATIONAL SONGS AND LEGENDS
OF
ROUMANIA.

Eustace Case BY
E. C. GRENVILLE MURRAY.

" La Guerre est ma patrie,
Mon harnois, ma maison;
Et en toute saison,
Combattre c'est ma vie."

LONDON:
SMITH, ELDER AND CO., 65, CORNHILL.

1859.

THIS LITTLE BOOK

Is Dedicated

IN GRATEFUL AFFECTION,

TO HER

WHO HAS BEEN FOR TEN YEARS THE COMPANION OF MY STUDIES;

WHO HAS BRIGHTEINED EVERY JOY AND COMBOLED

EVERY SORROW I HAVE FELT;

WHO HAS BEEN THE LIGHT OF MY HEARTH AND THE PRIDE OF MY HEART—

THE BRIDE OF MY YOUTH, THE FRIEND OF MY MANHOOD;

WHOSE BEAUTIFUL AND SUSTAINING LOVE, EVER CHEERING ON AND

RECKONING UPWARDS,

HAS HAD FOR ME SOMETHING AT ONCE HUMBLING AND

EXALTING IN IT.

INTRODUCTION.

THE countries now known under the names of Moldavia, Wallachia, Bessarabia, the Bucovina, the Banat, and Transylvania, formed in ancient times the country of the Dacians, a warlike and savage people, who came from Jasebus and Margiens on the banks of the Oxus. They were first called Derbies, or Dâes, and they spoke the same language as the Getae, who inhabited the country at the mouth of the Danube. Their God was called Zamolxis: he is said to have been a disciple of Pythagoras, and to have strayed into their country, where he established a religion based on the system of his great master. After his death he was honoured as the chief of their divinities.

The ancient Dacians appear to have had a liberal government, and we hear that they were divided into four classes: the King, the Priests, the Elders, and the People.* Their most remarkable deeds in arms are their war against Augustus, under their chief Beribastes, and the subsequent victories of that barbarian, who extended his rule as far as the frontiers of modern Bavaria. Tallius Cato, Tiberius, and Appius Sabinus were conquered, one after the other, by the victorious Dacians; but at length their chief, Duras, fearful of ultimate defeat, and dreading the resentment of the Romans, gave up his command to Decebalus, who became their first King; and uniting the various petty rulers under his sway, something as Egbert did the Heptarchy, seems to have established a powerful monarchy. He fought again with the Romans; and one Finculus, with his successor Domitian, appear to have been beaten by him at Talpa. A village in

* Vide Cogalniciano, "Histoire de la Moldo-Wallachie." He appears to have taken his materials, however, without sufficient examination.