THE COUNTRIES AND TRIBES OF THE PERSIAN GULF; VOL. 1

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The countries and tribes of the Persian Gulf; Vol. 1 by Samuel Barrett Miles

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SAMUEL BARRETT MILES

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COLONEL S. B. MILES.

[Frontispiece.

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COLONEL S. B. MILES.

VOL. I.

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Dedicated to

S. 16. M.

In Loving Memory

from

E. M. M.

PREFACE.

THE present volumes, dealing with the ancient and modern tribes and peoples of the countries around the Persian Gulf, were compiled by the late Colonel Samuel Barrett Miles, of the Indian Army and Political Service, Consul-General of Muscat and Baghdad, etc. He had looked forward to revising his notes, many of which were jotted down on odd bits of paper as he rode through the desert on his camel, but was prevented from doing this by failing eyesight. His blindness was aggravated by serious internal troubles, and in spite of the heroic attempts which he made, he found it impossible to set down in writing even a hundredth part of the vast store of Oriental learning which he had accumulated during his prolonged residence in India, Persia, Arabia, and Mesopotamia.

The reader will note that the system of transcription of proper names used in these volumes is that which was generally employed by Orientalists and British Indian officials some forty or fifty years ago. Had Colonel Miles lived he would undoubtedly have abandoned this system and adopted that now commonly in use in India, England, and on the Continent; and it is very probable that he would have modified certain portions of his narrative and supplied full references to his authorities, both ancient and modern. After much thought his widow decided to publish the manuscript of his work as she found it. With it she has included the rough notes which he made on his travels in Mesopotamia, and added a good, full Index.

She is indebted to Dr. Wallis Budge, Keeper of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities in the British Museum, for much friendly help in seeing the book through the Press.

F. A. W.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE.

Samuel Barrett Miles was the son of Major-Gen. Miles, of North Villa, Regents Park, and Cheshunt, and was born on October 2nd, 1838. He was educated at Harrow and entered the Indian Army in 1857. He was appointed Resident at Aden in 1867; Political Agent and Consul at Muscat in 1874; Consul-General of Baghdad in 1879; Agent and Consul-General of Zanzibar in 1881, etc. He was the author of several papers in the publications of the "Royal Geographical Society." In 1877 he married Ellen Marie, eldest daughter of Sir Brooke Kay, Bart., who survives him. His only son, Major H. W. Miles, R.M.L.I., was killed on H.M.S. Vanguard, July 19th, 1917. Colonel Miles died August 28th, 1914, and was buried at Hinton Charterhouse, Somerset.