

**EDWARD WEBBE,
HIS
TRAUAILES, 1590**

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Edward Webbe, His Trauailes, 1590 by Edward Arber

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EDWARD ARBER

**EDWARD WEBBE,
HIS
TRAUAILES, 1590**

*in a man
of the
English
1885*

*This is not a book
12/2/27
N.C.S.*

English Reprints

EDWARD ^{or}WEBBE

Chief Master Gunner

His Trauailes

1590

EDITED BY

EDWARD ^{or}ARBER

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CHRONICLE
of
some of the principal events
in the
LIFE, ADVENTURES, and TIMES
of
EDWARD WEBBE,
Master Gunner, sometime Chief Master Gunner of France.

* Probable or approximate dates.

WEBBE, apparently an unlettered man, goes confusedly backward and forward in his narration, so as to render any chronology of his life little better than guesswork. Some points can be fixed with certainty: from which it is clear, that when he gives years he speaks in round numbers; 13 meaning over 12 years: and the like.

1553. July 2. Mary succeeds to the crown.

*1554. Edward Webbe, born at St. Katherines, near the Tower of London. Is the son of Richard Webbe, Master Gunner of England, p. 17.

1558. Nov. 17. Elizabeth begins to reign.

1566-68. "My father . . . did prefer me to the service of
Oct. 12-14. Captain Jenkinson, at such time as he was sent Ambassador into Russia . . . and upon him I was daylie attendant. . . . There [at Moscow] I staid 3 yeeres attendant on my master." pp. 17, 18.

This statement fixes Webbe's birth in 1554. For prior to the burning of Moscow, Captain Anthony Jenkinson made but three voyages to Russia.

The first, 1557-60, included a visit to Bokhara: see Hakluyt, i. 319-338, Ed. 1599.

The second, 1561-64, included a visit to Persia: see Hakluyt, i. 338-352.

The third, 1566-68, is thus given in Hakluyt, i. 375.

"A very brief remembrance of a voyage made by M. Anthony Jenkinson, from London to Muscovia, sent from the Queenes Maiestic to the Emperour, in the yeere 1566.

"The fourth day of May in the yeere aforesaid, I embarked my selfe at Gravesend, in the good ship called the *Harry of London*, and having had a prosperous voyage arrived at the bay of S. Nicholas [in the White Sea] in Russia the 10 day of July following, and immediately I sent in post to the Emperour to aduertise of my coming and traueiling then thorowe the country, I with my company came to the Mosco where the Emperour kept his court, the 23. of August, and forthwith gaue the Secretarie to vnderstand my arriual, who aduertised the Emperours Maiestic, and the first day of September, being a solemne feast among the Russes, I came before the Emperours Maiestic, sitting in his seate of honour, and hauing kissed his hand, and done the Queenes Maiesties commendations, and deliuered her Graces letters and present, he had me to dinner, which I accepted, and had much honour done vnto me both then and all the time of my abode in Russia."

22 X 167
Attendant on Captain Jenkinson, in Russia.

CHRONICLE.

Goes again to Russia.

Captain Jenkinson appears to have remained in or about Moscow, until his return, which accounts for Webbe only alluding to the Russians, while with him.

1570. *wt. 16.* Webbe again goes out to Russia—this time to Narva, in the Gulf of Finland—in the English Russia fleet of 13 ships, under Captain William Burrough.

July 20. The fleet capture 5 ships of Danish rovers at Turtee island. For the official account of this fight, see Note 1. Webbe adds additional information as to the fate of the prisoners.

He appears to have remained through the winter at Moscow, for before the English fleet arrived next year,

1571. *May 24.* Moscow was burnt by the Crim-Tartars. For two accounts of which see Note 2.

wt. 17. Webbe escapes the fire and the crush only to become a slave. Giles Fletcher, writing twenty years later on, tells us,—

"The chiefe bootie the Tartars seeke for in all their warres, is to get store of captives, specially yong boys and girls, whom they sell to the *Turkes*, or other their neighbors. To this purpose, they take with them great baskets made like bakers panniers to carrie them tenderly, and if any of them happen to tyer, or to be sicke on the way, they dash him against the ground, or some tree and so leave him dead." *Of the Russe Commonwealth, fol. 62.*

Webbe, with seven other Englishmen, is taken to Kaffa in the Crimea.

After some time (Webbe states five years), they are ransomed for 300 crowns = £12:10:0 of their English money, each.

It was probably on this return home, through Russia, that Webbe lost his all in the wreck of the *Hart*, 12 miles from Narva.

1566, *May, 1.* *Selim II. becomes Sultan of Turkey.*

1572. *Oct. 7.* "The Sea-fight at Lepanto." Don John of Austria, at the head of 203 galleys, and 6 great Venetian galleasses, fights the Turkish fleet of 240 galleys and 60 smaller vessels: and gains an immense victory, sinking 94 ships and capturing 130 more. 30,000 Turks are slain, and 15,000 Christian galley-slaves released from slavery.

Webbe sails in the *Henry* of London for Leghorn, *p. 19.*

At Palermo, sees the Earl of Oxford give his challenge, *p. 32.*

1572. *Oct.* Don John retakes the *towon* of Tunis from the Turks. The Spaniards had held the citadel already. Webbe states he was there in the *Royal*, *p. 35.*

From Leghorn the *Henry* is sent to Alexandria; with a crew of 60 men, among whom, and apparently for the first time, Webbe is Master gunner, *p. 19.*

Returning from Alexandria, the *Henry* is, after a fight of 48 hours, captured by the Turks, *p. 19.* Webbe is made a galley-slave.

A galley-slave in Turkey.

1574. *Dec. 21.* *Amurath III. (Murad Khan) becomes Sultan.*

1576. *May 11.* *Thamasp I., Shah of Persia, dies.*

A disputed succession leads to fierce contests and national disorder in Persia. Amurath determines to conquer it.

In Turkey.
1578.
1579.

First campaign against Persia, from Erzeroum; under Mustapha Pasha (the conqueror of Cyprus). It is indecisive.

Mustapha Pasha has a second indecisive campaign. He is recalled, and arrives in Constantinople 9 May 1580. Sinan Pasha appointed in his stead.

*1580.

Webbe, 'constrained for want of victuals,' discovers his skill in gunnery. Has to serve in the Persian war.

1582. June 1—July 22. Amurath circumcises his eldest son Mahomet.

Feasting for 30 days and nights. See *J. von Hammer*.

Oct. 28. Webbe makes a wonderful piece of fireworks, pp. 28, 29.

Nov. 14. 'The tall shippe called the *Susan of London* (24 guns): the Master whereof was *Richard Parsons*' leaves Blackwall, and

1583. Jan. 14. Embarks, at the Isle of Wight, Master *William Harborne* and suite; being the first English Ambassador to the Great Turk.

Mar. 29. Mr. Harborne lands at Constantinople, and remains there 5 years.

The remainder of Webbe's travels while in slavery can only be put down as they are given to us.

Alli Pasha—a renegade Christian—with 60 gallees attempts his native town in Calabria.

From the Army in Persia, Webbe is taken by Damascus to Cairo.

At the Red sea, sees the *Grand Maria*.

Thence to Goa in the East Indies.

Thence by Bethlehem, Jerusalem, &c., again to Damascus

Thence to the land of Prester John [Turkistan] 'within 28 degrees [or 2080 miles] of the sun.'

Returns to Constantinople in time of famine, 'an English penny loaf of bread being worth a crown of gold.'

Is imprisoned in iron chains, grievously pinched with extreme penury at Constantinople, with 3000 other Christian slaves.

Webbe, on behalf of 300 Christian slaves, works through a 14 feet wall. Their attempt to escape is discovered, and they are punished, p. 28.

1584. Oct. 29. The Grand-Vizier, Osman Pasha dies.

1588. Oct. 34. 'Soon after the death of the great Basha' Mr. Harborne ransoms about 20 English men, 'whereof' Webbe 'was one of the last.'

Journeying towards England, he came by land to Venice. Then singularly enough, goes southward through Italy.

At Padua, he is tried for a heretic.

At Ferrara, he is well entertained.

At Bologna, an Englishman, a Catholic Bishop, Doctor Poole, shows him great friendship.

At Florence, he meets another Englishman, Mr. John Stanley.

At Rome, he is 10 days in trouble with the Pope and Cardinal Allen, but they let him pass, giving him 25 crowns. The English College however make a fool of him and imprison him three days, from which he is delivered by another Englishman.

*Aug. He is reviled with lying rumours as to the success of the Spanish Armada.

Aug. 3. Mr. Harborne and suite leave Constantinople; return-

Chief Master Gunner, in chains, in Turkey.

Journeying towards England.

CHRONICLE.

Journey to England.

1589. *Feb.

ing home via the Danube, Poland, and the Hanse towns.
Hakluyt, i. 400.

At Naples, Webbe is denounced by a Genoese as an English spy. Is 16 days in a dark dungeon: 'thrice had I ye strappado.' Is further imprisoned 7 months.

He petitions the Viceroy. The King appoints him one of his gunners, with 35 crowns a month.

Naturally he seizes the first opportunity of escape. Finally does get away in the *Grace of London*, Nicholas Nottingham, Master.

May 1. wt. 35. WEBBE ARRIVES IN ENGLAND, after 13 years' absence.

May to Nov. Visits his friends.

Nov. Goes over into France. Henry IV. appoints him Chief Master Gunner in the field.

In France.

1590. Mar. 14.

Battle of Ivry. Henry IV. beats the League, p. 34.

wt. 36.

Jealous French gunners poison Webbe. He is saved by 'Unicorn's horn.' and returns to England.

Takes lodgings in a backwall, where he writes his narrative, finally on

May 19

He dedicates his book.



THE TRAVELS
OF
EDWARD WEBBE.

INTRODUCTION.

THE dread of the Great Turk pervading Christendom, in the days of Queen Elizabeth, is a thing hard of apprehension to the present generation of Englishmen. Beyond the comparatively petty intestine quarrels of Christian princes, there seemed surely surging onwards the great wave of Mahomedan invasion. In numbers incalculable, in numbers apparently inexhaustible, the Turks had poured into Europe. Hardly a century had expired since they had blotted out the Eastern Roman Empire,—the venerable polity of eleven centuries, the bridge between ancient and modern history. Within that century, they had conquered Greece, Egypt, Rhodes, and Cyprus; had penetrated into Italy; and had carried devastation through Hungary, to the very walls of Vienna. Even now the southern nations of Europe were grappling with them, as in a death struggle. Crushing defeats, such as 'The great sea-fight of Lepanto,' and they were rare enough, seemed hardly to diminish the numbers or check the power of the Turks, or to procure for the Christians even a moment's breathing time. Need we wonder, then, if