

**MEMOIR OF CAPTAIN  
DALTON, DEFENDER OF  
TRICHINOPOLY, 1752-  
1753**

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Memoir of Captain Dalton, defender of Trichinopoly, 1752-1753 by Charles Dalton

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**CHARLES DALTON**

**MEMOIR OF CAPTAIN  
DALTON, DEFENDER OF  
TRICHINOPOLY, 1752-  
1753**





CAPTAIN JOHN DALTON.

FROM THE ORIGINAL PORTRAIT, BY ROMNEY.

AT LANGTON HALL, MALTON.

MEMOIR  
OF  
CAPTAIN DALTON,  
H.E.I.C.S.

*DEFENDER OF TRICHINOPOLY, 1752-1753.*

MEMOIR OF  
CAPTAIN DALTON  
BY

CHARLES DALTON, F.R.G.S.,  
AUTHOR OF "LIFE AND TIMES OF GENERAL SIR EDWARD CECIL."

"A gallant and able officer."

MALCOLM'S *Life of Clive*, i. 119.

LONDON:  
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PALL MALL, S.W.

1886.

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IN AFFECTIONATE MEMORY  
OF  
MY BELOVED AUNT AND FRIEND,  
ISABELLA DALTON.

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## P R E F A C E.

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“ Facts are stubborn things.”

THE memoirs now offered to the reading public were written some years ago, and a few copies printed for private circulation. A revised edition of these memoirs is now made public, because I find that few, if any, outside the immediate circle of Captain Dalton's descendants, are aware that Robert Orme, the Indian historian of the eighteenth century, transferred a great part of the contents of the MS. journal kept by Captain Dalton, during the last few years of his service in India, to his *History of the War in India*, which appeared in 1763. Much of the credit that devolved upon Orme for his historical production was really due to Dalton, and it is because this fact still remains unknown that I now publish the military memoirs of my great-



grandfather, who supplied the historian with the minute details which characterise a great part of the first volume of a work which went through four editions, and has supplied the foundation-stone of all subsequent works relating to the transactions of the British in India a hundred and thirty odd years ago.

I have no wish to detract from the fame of the mighty dead. I merely wish to do an act of justice to the memory of a brave and single-minded soldier, who, I am quite sure, desired no public acknowledgment of the favour he conferred upon the historian, by furnishing him with the interesting chronicle of the stirring military events which took place in Southern India between 1750 and 1754.

Succeeding generations of biographers have expressed their admiration of Orme's historical powers. Here are two specimens:—

“Few historians,” says Chalmers, “have connected the events of their story with more perspicuity or related them with more conciseness.”

“Orme, inferior to no English historian,” wrote Lord Macaulay, “in style and power of

painting, is minute even to tediousness. In one volume he allots on an average a closely printed quarto page to the events of every forty-eight hours."

The lynx-eyed Macaulay saw, what other biographers failed to discover, the discrepancy in style in parts of the Indian historian's work. Had he known, what the reader now does, that Orme had fitted in whole extracts from Captain Dalton's Indian journal into his "History," weaving the whole together with the dexterity and ingenuity of a first-class parlour-fire historian, he would not have wondered at the minuteness, which is more in keeping with a daily journal than a history extending over many years.

Again, Sir John Malcolm, who knew, from Orme's own letters to Clive, that the historian sent his proof-sheets to Lord Clive for correction, and received maps and much valuable information from that great soldier, does not appear to have been aware of the existence of Dalton's Journal, nor of Orme's wholesale extracts from it.

"No apology," writes Malcolm in his *Life of*

*Clive*, "is necessary for adopting his (Orme's) narrative, which, in its very minuteness, is as interesting as it is instructive."

During the last twelve months of Captain Dalton's residence in India, Orme was absent from that country, having returned to England; Clive was also in England; so that Dalton's journal, recording, as it did, the chief events in Southern India during that stirring year, was peculiarly valuable to a historian. If it be thought unprecedented to disclose the secrets of a historian who has been long dead, I may quote a precisely similar case.

More than 250 years after Holinshed's *Chronicles* appeared in print, a MS. journal relating to the siege of Guisnes, and written by Arthur Lord Grey de Wilton, was discovered in an old box of deeds at Oulton Park, Cheshire, and was found to coincide, nearly verbatim, with the account given of that siege by Holinshed in his *Chronicles of England and Scotland*. Holinshed never mentioned who furnished him with this interesting journal, which he transferred wholesale to his history; and, on account of this silence on his part, a member of the Grey de