

**SAYAH; OR, THE
COURIER
TO THE EAST**

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Sayah; Or, The Courier to the East by Herbert Byng Hall

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HERBERT BYNG HALL

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Hall, Herbert Byng.

BY THE AUTHOR OF

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ETC. ETC. ETC.

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MDCCLVI.

SAYAH.

INTRODUCTION.

THOSE only who have made several voyages in the French mail steam-packets from Marseilles to Constantinople, can form any just estimate of the number and variety of mere pleasure-seeking travellers who proceed by them to the capital of the East, as to the seat of war. For the most part they are English. It can scarcely be said, however, that they belong to the aristocracy, to the universities, or to the literary or artistical school. Hitherto, they may be fairly classed as members of the public generally, who take advantage of a short period of repose from the labours of life to visit

the Bosphorus and Balaklava, the heights of Inkerman, and the valley of the Tcherneya; from whence, having gathered some relic of the battle-field, if not delayed by fever or cholera, they return to the land we live in somewhat less informed as to the actual position and state of the army than would they have been had they remained at home and read "The Times."

If mere curiosity or novelty, therefore, induces men to risk their lives (for I declare to have heard a tourist assert, that he was so carried forward on the 18th of June as to be in the very midst of carnage), what will it be when Providence judges fit to terminate the war?

It will simply come to this—the French mail-packets will be crammed with tourists hastening to the seat of war; and I doubt not that excursion steamers will be advertised from Southampton as from Marseilles, at a very reasonable outlay, inclusive of the railway fare from Balaklava to the late head-quarters of the Commander-in-Chief, while the Monastery of St.

George, the heights of Inkerman, the Valley of Death, the glorious battle-field of Balaklava, and the city of Sevastopol, will become as well-known localities as Richmond Hill.

It is with the fervent hope that these theories will be soon realised and converted into practical events that I put forth this little volume, for the benefit, I should hope, as far as it goes, alike of those who may be induced to follow my footsteps, as of those who live at home at ease, yet who would gladly, at a small outlay, have some knowledge of the highway which divides them from those friends and relations who have shared, and are still sharing, in the cares and privations of the Crimean campaign.

Into the cottage of the poor I would also hope my humble book may find its way, for there are hearts among them as brave, loyal, and loving, as those which beat for the absent soldier-son in the bosom of the proudest noble.