

**REMARKS DURING
A JOURNEY TO THE
EAST INDIES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649373178

Remarks during a journey to the East Indies by Mark Wood

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

MARK WOOD

**REMARKS DURING
A JOURNEY TO THE
EAST INDIES**

REMARKS
DURING
A JOURNEY TO THE EAST INDIES,

BY WAY OF HOLLAND AND GERMANY TO VENICE,
AND FROM THENCE BY ALEXANDRIA, GRAND CAIRO, AND SUEZ,
TO FORT ST. GEORGE:

UNDERTAKEN BY ORDER OF THE SECRET COMMITTEE OF
THE COURT OF EAST-INDIA DIRECTORS, THE 24TH DAY OF MARCH, 1779.

BY CAPTAIN MARK WOOD,
SUBSEQUENTLY
CHIEF ENGINEER OF BENGAL.

REPRINTED FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY, BY PERMISSION, BY HIS NIECE,

Mrs. Montagu.



LICHFIELD:
PRINTED BY F. W. MEACHAM, ST. MARY'S SQUARE.
—
1875.



P R E F A C E .

THE following interesting narrative of an OVERLAND JOURNEY TO INDIA, when such a route was a thing almost unknown, by CAPTAIN MARK WOOD, afterwards COL. SIR MARK WOOD, BART., of Gatton Park, Surrey, has been now reprinted by myself, with the consent of his daughter and grandchildren. And it is a great gratification to me to have it in my power to retain for them, and for my own children, and others related to us, this pleasant memory of my dear uncle, who was so deservedly beloved by many, and whose gallant devotion to the duties of his profession are so well yet so unassumingly expressed in these pages.

My own recollections of him can never depart but with my life, so deeply perhaps does childhood value the kindnesses of early years. And on another account there is still more interest to me in thus preserving from very possible loss his journal (since only one or two copies of it appear to exist), as it so entirely confirms all that is said of him in the "Memorials of the Woods of Largo."

To the memory of his daughter, *Barbara*, the wife of *William Joseph Yorkwood Esq.*, of Dewes Hall and Bishops' Hall, Essex, so intertwined with that of my own dear mother *Lady Wood of Ottershaw*, a yet more loving bond has been given to me by her affectionate and willing acquiescence in my request for republication, but a little while before her lamented death in the early part of this year.

And therefore, as the gift of *Mrs. Yorkwood* to the younger members of our family, quite as much or even far more than mine, I would wish this reprint to be considered.

Francis Mary Montagu.

NOVEMBER, 1874.

SIR MARK WOOD died at his house, in Pall Mall, in February, 1829, in the 78th year of his age.

REMARKS, &c.

ON the 23d day of March 1779, about mid-day, received a note from Mr. Wilkes, clerk to the secret committee of the court of East India directors, desiring to see me on particular business; when, under injunctions of secrecy, he communicated the desire of the secret committee that I would charge myself with their dispatches, as well as with those of the secretary of state, and proceed with them overland to India that evening.

The contents of these dispatches Mr. Wilkes represented to be of infinite importance to the British nation; and, as a further inducement for me to acquiesce, stated, that the loss of engineer officers during the siege of Pondicherry, had been a particular consideration with the secret committee in selecting me for this charge.

I was given to understand that two dispatches were to be sent off, viz., one by Suze, with which I was to be charged; the other by Bussorah, under the care of Mr. Charles Mordaunt, brother to Lord Peterborough.

Having provided myself with a trunk of linen and post-chaise, and arranged my private affairs, I attended at the hour appointed at the East India House, when Mr. Wilkes informed me, that he had it in charge from the secret committee to acquaint me, that considering the importance of the dispatches, hazard of the journey, and its being war time, they had determined on the expediency of sending two gentlemen in charge of each dispatch, and that Captain James Nowlan, of the Bombay military establishment, would accordingly accompany me.

At

At midnight received charge of the dispatches from Mr. Wilkes, clerk to the secret committee, accompanied by the following instructions and list of packets from the secretary to the court of directors.

To MARK WOOD and JAMES NOWLAN, Esqrs.

Gentlemen,

In obedience to the commands of the committee of secrecy, the packets and other articles mentioned in the accompanying list, are herewith delivered to you, and which you are hereby required, with the utmost expedition and diligence, to pursue your route to the East Indies, and to deliver the said packets according to their respective addresses, passing by way of Brussels through Germany to Venice, and from thence to Alexandria, Cairo, and Suez, from whence you are to proceed to India entirely by sea, or otherwise, as shall appear most expedient for effecting with the greatest safety, facility, and speed, your arrival at your ulterior destination.

If any of the company's small vessels be lying at the port of Suez, in expectation of gentlemen proceeding to India by the authority, and charged with advices of the court of directors, you are immediately to embark from thence on any such vessel, and pursue the objects of your mission in manner above mentioned; and for this purpose you are furnished with an order to the commander of one of those vessels, strictly requiring him to obey such directions as you shall think proper to give him.

You are not to fail giving, by all secure opportunities, a particular account of your proceedings during your journey or voyage, that are worthy of notice.

You are furnished with letters of credit on Brussels and Venice to a large amount, but it is not thereby designed that you should be lavish in your disbursements. The committee confide in your prudence in this instance, and are persuaded that no expenses will be incurred by you, excepting such as will be necessary to enable you to proceed