

**SKETCHES IN GREECE AND
TURKEY: WITH THE PRESENT
CONDITION AND FUTURE
PROSPECTS OF THE TURKISH
EMPIRE**

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Sketches in Greece and Turkey: with the present condition and future prospects of the Turkish empire by William R. Greg

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WILLIAM R. GREG

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SKETCHES
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OF
THE TURKISH EMPIRE.

[by William Rathbone Greg]

Methinks I see a noble and puissant nation rousing herself like a strong man after sleep, and shaking her invincible locks. Methinks I see her as an eagle renewing her mighty youth, and kindling her undazzled eyes at the full mid-day beam.—MILTON.

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1831

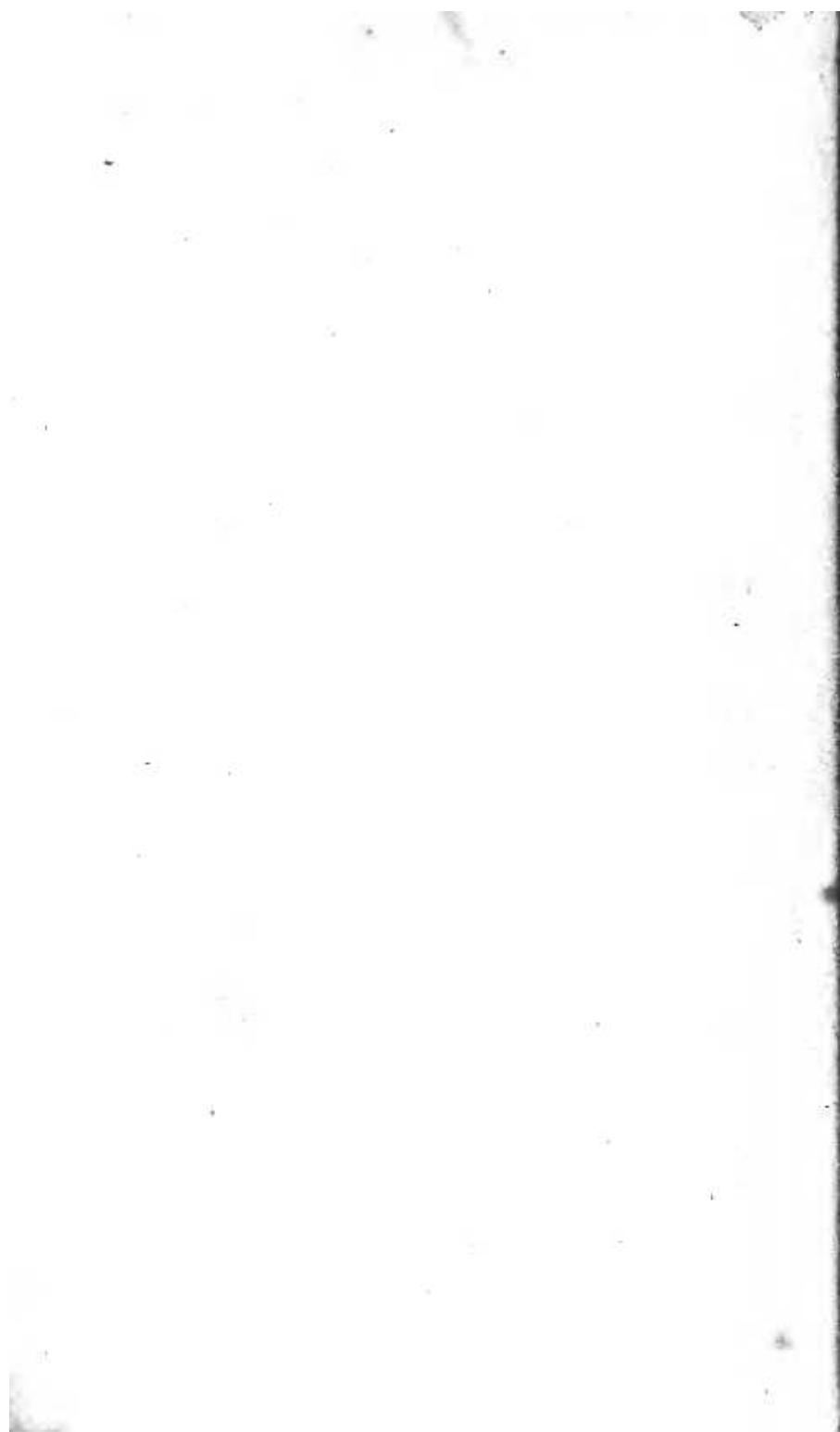
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PREFACE.

It has been said, that " a preface filled with apologies is an acknowledgment of sins which a man deliberately determines to commit." I will therefore offer no apology for intruding my " Sketches " on the public eye ; but can only trust that my presumption in hazarding this volume may be atoned for by the motives which have induced me to put it forth.

On my return from Greece in the autumn of 1832, I was much surprised at the deficient and erroneous impressions which appeared to prevail, both in Parliament and in the country at large, respecting the condition, capacities, and character of the Greek people. In fact, there have been no sources of correct information on these points ; and, with the

single exception of the authentic and masterly articles in Numbers IX. and X. of the *Foreign Quarterly Review*, the writer of which unites the most accurate information to the soundest views, I have seen no work, since the termination of the Greek revolution, which betrays any thing like an adequate acquaintance with the character of the people, or the condition of the country.

In the humble hope of contributing to remedy these deficiencies, and to excite the interest of Englishmen respecting the present state and the future prospects of this unhappy country, I venture to lay before the public a few characteristic Sketches of Greece and its inhabitants, which can claim no merit beyond that of unembellished accuracy, and whose unpretending garb may, I hope, disarm criticism. In three only of these Sketches is there any thing like fiction; and even in these, it is rather the location of the incidents, and their appropriation to a particular character, that are unreal, than the incidents themselves.

To disclaim any pretensions to learning, would be an impudent affectation, as it would seem to imply that I thought the imputation *possible*. Of the antiquities and classical scenes of Greece I have scarcely said a word ; for no new remarks were to be made, and it would have been tedious to repeat old ones.

I must entreat the pardon of the prosaic reader for the few instances in which I have allowed myself to be betrayed into earnest and enthusiastic expressions. But the contagion of sentiment and romance is spread too widely over this interesting country for one wholly to escape the influence. It is not alone the young, the ardent, or the learned, whose enthusiasm is excited by contemplating the scenery and antiquities of regenerated Greece ; the statesman, the merchant, the diplomatist, have all had their sympathies deeply interested in treading this classic shore, by the recollection of what Greece once was, and the prospect of what she may again become.

William Lushington Esq