

**'ON GUARD', EXTRACTS
FROM THE JOURNAL OF
AN INDIA SUBALTERN**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649369287

'On guard', extracts from the journal of an India subaltern by James W. Bryans

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

JAMES W. BRYANS

**'ON GUARD', EXTRACTS
FROM THE JOURNAL OF
AN INDIA SUBALTERN**

"ON GUARD."

BRING

*EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNAL OF AN
INDIAN SUBALTERN.*

BY

JAMES W. BRYANS,

*Captain (Retired), Late H.M. Bombay Army,
Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.*



LONDON :

JAS. NISBET & CO., 21, BERNERS STREET.

1882.

Copyright. All rights reserved.

251. g. 678.

"From my earliest youth my pride was to be a soldier."


TO MY COMRADES
IN THE BRITISH ARMY,
ESPECIALLY THOSE SERVING IN INDIA,
THE FOLLOWING PAGES
ARE AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED





“ON GUARD.”

“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.”—1 COR. xvi. 13.

N Guard! How many are the pleasant, nay stirring, recollections which these words recall to the mind! As I glance once more over the somewhat soiled and tattered pages of Brandon's MS. journal, none appear, to me at least, so interesting, so remarkable, and so worthy of record (as an instance of God's over-ruling providence in using humble means to attain His

ends) as the events I am now about to commit to print.

I may just be permitted to mention at the outset, that an alteration in the names of the persons herein recorded, is the only liberty I have ventured to take with the manuscript now before me. By the way, I recommend all soldiers to keep a journal, for we may, I think, derive much profit and enjoyment from it in after-life, as it concerns those transactions in which we once took a part. One revived idea produces another in the memory, which is a faculty, you know, which never dies, until the mind is most agreeably and profitably occupied with lively and holy imaginations. May God therefore bless this little story to His glory and honour,—keeping him who took a prominent part in it very humble—and that this feeble effort to

promote the spiritual and temporal welfare of our comrades—by setting before them an example of earnest piety in the ranks—may stir up a great and yet greater interest in the hearts of all our friends, be they civil or military, who love the British Army, and who are humbly and patiently endeavouring by various agencies to bring within reach of every poor and beloved brother, “the unsearchable riches of Christ,” that He may indeed dwell in their hearts by faith, and be filled with the fulness of God which passeth knowledge.

On Guard! Let me briefly explain to the non-military reader into whose hands this little book may, perchance, be placed, what these words mean. It is one of the most important duties which a soldier has to perform. Any default of dress or duty is—speaking after

the manner of military men—reckoned as a serious crime. A spot, for instance, on his waist-belt or a badly folded overcoat will, without doubt, entail on the offender “an extra guard.” Again, the man who is “on guard” must be ever ready at once to answer to his name. I have often observed what a magic effect those sounds, “Guard, turn out,” have on a soldier. I have seen a man lying fast asleep, and another trying to wake him by calling to him—calling his name, even pushing him, and hardly any notice taken of these efforts. But when the signal for the guard was given, the sleeper was on his feet in a moment.

He must also avoid lounging or a careless manner or demeanour. If he moves about, he must move about “smartly”; if he stands still, he must

stand still "smartly." The behaviour of men "on guard," be it careless or the reverse, is a sure indication of the discipline kept up in a regiment. The guard-room shows this, for the men must ever wait in a state of preparedness ; if they rest, it is with their side arms on, with their rifles at hand. And now, may we not apply all this to ourselves ? How significant it is of the Christian soldier's life and conversation ! He dreads a stain or spot on his character, his attitude is "ready, aye, ready," to answer to his name when the Master calls him. He must be ever "on guard," daily and hourly watching in all things.

"Comrade, thou thy guard must keep ;
 Pray that God may speed thy way ;
 Narrow is the road and steep,
 Therefore watch and pray."

On Guard ! The scene of this little