

**THE LITTLE DRUMMER: OR,
FILIAL
AFFECTION; A STORY OF
THE RUSSIAN CAMPAIGN**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649637287

The Little Drummer: Or, Filial Affection; A Story of the Russian Campaign by Gustav Nieritz & John Gilbert & Henry William

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GUSTAV NIERITZ & JOHN GILBERT & HENRY WILLIAM

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Front.

Augustus teaching peasants the art of beating the drum. — P. 114.

THE
LITTLE DRUMMER:

OR,
FILIAL AFFECTION.

A Story of the Russian Campaign.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOHN GILBERT.

LONDON:
G. ROUTLEDGE & CO., FARRINGDON STREET.
NEW YORK: 18, BEEKMAN STREET.
1856.

PREFACE.

THE judicious mingling of historical truth with pleasant fiction, has at all times been justly considered a desirable object in the production of books for the amusement and instruction of the young. There is doubtless many a lad now living among us, in whom a taste for the study of history has been pleasantly but surely called forth, by the perusal of such a book as Miss Strickland's *Edward Evelyn*. Works of this class are calculated to leave on a youth's mind a desire to learn more of the subjects about which he has been reading, while he may turn satiated from the most elaborate treatise of a Mignet or a Lamartine. With the aim of thus combining the *utile* with the

dulce, this slight sketch of Napoleon's celebrated Russian Campaign has been produced. It is taken, as its title implies, from the *Jugendschriften* of Gustav Nieritz, stories "familiar as household words" in the mouth of every German schoolboy.

Whatever may be the merits or demerits of this little book, the translator feels assured that nothing will be found, on the one hand, to excite horror, or on the other, to instil into the youthful mind those false notions concerning what is called "the Glory of War," which the present age so rightly and universally condemns.

H. D.

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THE
LITTLE DRUMMER.

CHAPTER I.

THE SICK CHILD.

THERE was sorrow and tribulation in the house of Master Wunsch, the saddler; for Emily, his infant daughter, was very ill. The poor child lay tossing in a burning fever, which threatened to put an untimely end to her innocent life. Many and fervent were the prayers offered up by the anxious parents to Him who alone could send help in their time of need.—The sixth night of Emily's illness had arrived. In a room dimly lighted by the flickering rays of a night-lamp, still further shaded by a large book placed on end before it, by way of screen, stood the cradle of the little sufferer,