

**BELGRADE, THE WHITE CITY OF
DEATH: BEING THE
HISTORY OF KING ALEXANDER
AND OF QUEEN DRAGA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649072507

Belgrade, the White City of Death: Being the History of King Alexander and of Queen Draga by
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Cover @ 2017

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MRS. F. NORTHEK WILSON & M. CHEDOMILLE MIJATOVICH

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By ^子MRS. NORTHESK WILSON
ILLUSTRATED BY NUMEROUS POR-
TRAITS KINDLY LENT BY HIS EX-
CELLENCY

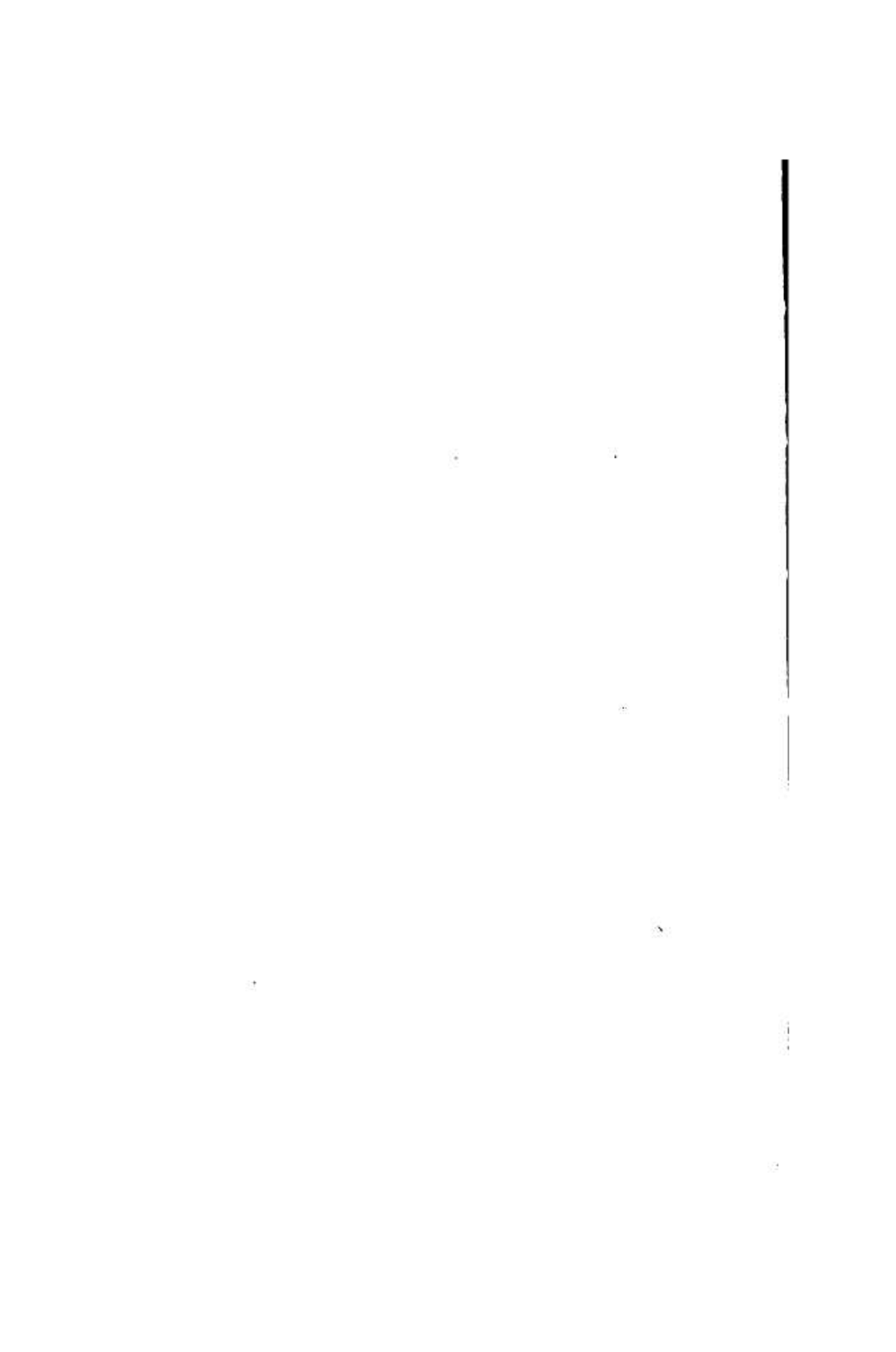
M. CHEDOMILLE MIJATOVICH

SERVIAN MINISTER AT THE COURT OF ST. JAMES



LONDON: R. A. EVERETT & CO. LTD.
42, ESSEX STREET, STRAND, W.C. 1903
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*The Authoress begs to tender her grateful
thanks to His Excellency M. CHEDOMILLE
MIJATOVICH, Servian Minister at the
Court of St. James, also to MADAME
ELODIE MIJATOVICH, for their kind help
to her in the compilation of this volume.*



P R E F A C E

It is likely to be some time before Europe will have recovered from the shock it received at the assassination of the late King and Queen of Servia. In England particularly we have come to think of civilization as something essentially bound up with limited monarchy, parliamentary government, and the complete supremacy of the Civil power. When we are suddenly confronted with the self-assertion of the military element in a European State, with a revolution accomplished by physical violence and bloodshed, and the triumph of the murderers, we are apt to think that the Powers are nursing in their midst a relic from the age of barbarism. We forget that Servia is a comparatively new State. The domestic life of its people is far more "modern" and "civilized" than its political life. The latter in its origin was necessarily steeped in war and bloodshed, and its political traditions have not yet been completely purged by the spirit of order which has been gradually moulding the habits of the people. Moreover, a long-standing vendetta between the rival houses has for the best part of a century made the throne an object of

dispute. It is not very long since we have seen in France, in Spain, and in Italy violence, or threats of violence, due to rival claimants to the throne, or rival forms of government. But in Servia this rivalry has long been an inheritance. The situation has been aggravated by the fact that Servia is one of the small States of the Balkan Peninsula jealously watched by three rivals for supremacy—Russia, Austria, and Turkey. I shall have to show in this little book how insidious, how treacherous, and how shameless a part was played by Russian diplomacy in the events immediately leading up to the assassination of Alexander and Draga.

I have been particularly fortunate in the help I have received in securing definite and authentic information, both about the murder, the events preceding it, and the persons who participated in it. First of all I must acknowledge a debt of gratitude to His Excellency, M. Chedomille Mijatovich, the Servian Minister at the Court of St. James, without whose assistance this book could never have been put together. I have to thank him for giving me free access to an important paper he had in his possession; for lending me many of the interesting photographs which are reproduced in this volume; and for supplying me by word of mouth with a host of information which I could not have secured from any other source. Moreover, he has kindly read over the proof-sheets, and corrected the errors he has

noticed. His Excellency, on receiving the official despatch of the tragedy, at once tendered his resignation; up to the time of going to press, however, this had not been accepted.

I have thought that the best way of presenting the truth about the recent tragedy was to write in outline a history of the royal families of Servia. At best I have only been able to give a brief sketch, suggesting the different influences which have been brought to bear both from within the State and from without. Circumstances have compelled me to write the book at high pressure, and the style at any rate has suffered in consequence. The last chapter had to be written when I was laid up by illness. But I say this, not with a view to forestall criticism, but to draw attention to the matter rather than to the form. I have hopes that the truth of my narrative, of which I can speak with certainty, may atone for defects in the style.

F. NORTHERS WILSON.