

**THE CHRONICLES OF A TRAVELLER: OR,
A HISTORY OF THE AFGHAN WARS WITH
PERSIA, IN THE
BEGINNING OF THE LAST CENTURY,
FROM THEIR COMMENCEMENT TO THE
ACCESSION OF SULTAN ASHRUF**

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The chronicles of a traveller: or, a history of the Afghan wars with Persia, in the beginning of the last century, from their commencement to the accession of Sultan Ashruf by George Newnham Mitford & J. C. Clodius

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GEORGE NEWNHAM MITFORD & J. C. CLODIUS

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ASHRUF.

BEING A TRANSLATION OF THE "TAREEKH-I-SEEAH," FROM
THE LATIN OF

J. C. CLODIUS,

PROF. ARAB. AT LEIPZIG.

BY

GEORGE NEWNHAM MITFORD, ESQ.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE AFGHAN USURPATION, TILL ITS
OVERTHROW BY TAHMASP KOOLLY KHAN.

LONDON:
JAMES RIDGWAY, PICCADILLY.

1840.



TO

THOMAS NEWNHAM, ESQ.

THIS VOLUME IS INSCRIBED,

AS A SMALL TOKEN OF ESTEEM,

BY

BY HIS AFFECTIONATE RELATIVE,

THE TRANSLATOR.

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LONDON:

PRINTED BY BLATCH AND LAMPERT, GROVE PLACE, BROMPTON.

PREFACE.

IN presenting this work to the Public, the Translator found himself compelled, in some measure, to make several remarks on the subject of this volume, and the authors who have treated upon it; these he has collected in an introductory disquisition. They may, perhaps, afford some information to new students in Oriental History: to those who are more deeply read, the volume itself, should the original not have come under their observation, will place some very important events in a different light to that in which they may have been accustomed to regard them from accounts given us by some English and French Historians. Should his researches throw any light upon their previous opinions, he will feel himself amply repaid for all his inquiries. He has not merely referred to printed volumes, but sought information from persons who appeared qualified to judge. As Krusinski's accounts, through the colouring and romantic imagination of his French commentator, have been brought into some discredit, a defence of the Jesuit's

statements, as corrected by the Turks, has been imperatively called for; otherwise the annexed introduction might have been superfluous. The notes which have been inserted, both at the foot of the page, and in the Appendix (*A*), will place the various accounts in juxta-position: it must remain, therefore, to the more experienced Orientalist, after weighing the reasons adduced, to decide which bear the greatest internal mark of authenticity. The critic, who would look into this translation to comment on its style of composition, will find, I am aware, many inaccuracies; but those who have experienced the difficulty of producing a literal translation from the authors in pure Latinity, will easily conceive the labor required in a re-translation, from a version, which, under the circumstances Clodius's work was written, abounds in defective and obscure expressions. Relying on the sincere motive which actuated him, the Translator commits his maiden volume upon the stream of Literature. No thirst after fame has prompted his labors, but an anxiety to elucidate the historical information possessed by his countrymen. This, he hopes, will plead in favour of the undertaking, which he now submits to a generous public.

INTRODUCTION.

IN contemplating the duties of a citizen of a great and enlightened nation, considerable importance may be attached to a diligent and even inquisitive search into the annals of his native land, and of those regions which have submitted to the triumphant arms of his gallant countrymen. The student should not shrink from the labor, if, during his researches, an opportunity should occur by which he might be enabled to throw light upon the habits and characters of the nations, among whom his country is accomplishing great achievements in politics and warfare. Nor should he decline the task of illustrating—even in the subordinate character of a translator—the course, the scenery, and other essentials, calculated to facilitate the means already existing in this North-Western corner of the civilized world, of meditating on the probable results of brilliant operations, in countries afar off, and hitherto but obscurely known. If, indeed,

his forerunners in this path have left behind them works, which will last through many an age, as memorials of their industry and perseverance, and which for beauty of style, and intrinsic worth, can rarely, if ever be surpassed; and if the translator of the work, now offered to the public in an English dress, dare not entertain a thought of rivalling the merits of many of those who have introduced foreign authors to the knowledge of our fellow citizens; some merit, it is hoped, will nevertheless be allowed to the task of searching for and examining records, rendered almost unknown by the veil of antiquity, by the distant places of their publication, or by the community at large not being sufficiently acquainted with the language in which they were originally written. To the two latter of these classes, belong the Chronicles before us. The translator has spared no pains to render this work of Asiatic history acceptable to his reader, at a time when the deep vallies and almost inaccessible mountains of Afghanistan, and their rugged passes, have rung with the peals of Britain's artillery, and with the cheers of the onward moving columns of her intrepid sons, and their fellow-warriors raised in her own Indian provinces; when Ghiznee, hitherto esteemed one of the most impregnable fortresses of Asia, and the city whence Mahmood the Great marched, about the beginning of the eleventh century, to the conquest of India, and those regions whose subjugation Russia is now attempting, has been carried by the skill and bravery of an English army;

when Candahar, the nurse of the wild and hardy tribes, who, as related in the following pages, overthrew one of the most powerful monarchies of the east, that in its renovated state has become inimical to our interests, has been constrained to submit to its exiled sovereign, Shah Soojah-ool-Moolk, the protected ally of England.

A copy of the Turkish original, printed at Constantinople, in 1729, soon after the establishment in that capital of an official press, during the reign of Ahmed III., whilst the power of Turkey was at its zenith, is to be found in the British Museum;* and probably in a few other libraries, possessed by rich and influential collectors of rare books. But the name is not to be found in the catalogues of other public libraries of the first distinction. As it is understood that on an influential officer, attached to the British Embassy at Constantinople, endeavouring to purchase an entire collection of the works printed at the Sultan's press, no copy of this book was obtained; it may be inferred that it is very rare, even at the place of its publication. The materials used in its compilation were undoubtedly furnished by the memoirs of the Polish Jesuit, Judas Krusinski, who resided about thirty years in Persia, as a missionary; and these Turkish Chronicles of a Traveller, were printed by command of the Grand Vizier, Ibrahim Padshah, in

* Under this head of Krusinski, being the only work bearing his name in the collection, excepting Clodius's Latin Version; but mention is made, we now find, in Dorn's annotations on the Afghan History of a work of Krusinski, under the signature of Prodomus.