

**THE REAL SIR
RICHARD BURTON**

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The real Sir Richard Burton by Walter Phelps Dodge

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WALTER PHELPS DODGE

**THE REAL SIR
RICHARD BURTON**



"THE ARABIAN NIGHTS."

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THE REAL SIR RICHARD BURTON

BY

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WITH A FRONTISPIECE

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To

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

THIS RECORD OF A STRENUOUS LIFE



AUTHOR'S NOTE

THIS book is intended to compete with the various "Lives" of Burton. The first of these, "A Sketch of the Career of Richard F. Burton," by Richards, Wilson and Baddeley (London, 1886), is a rare but unimportant pamphlet. "Richard F. Burton," by Francis Hitchman (London, 1887), is an interesting account of the great explorer's travels.

Lady Burton's monumental "Life of Capt. Sir Richard F. Burton" (London, 1893), will always remain the standard work on the subject, in spite of its imperfections.

"The True Life of Capt. Sir R. F. Burton," by his niece, Miss Stisted (London, 1896), is useful, but is chiefly a depreciation of Lady Burton.

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“The Romance of Isabel, Lady Burton” (London, 1897), by W. H. Wilkins, is really a reply to Miss Stisted, and an attempt to exalt Lady Burton at the expense of her husband—an attempt she would have been the first to resent.

“The Life of Sir Richard Burton” (London, 1906), by Thomas Wright, is more of a Criticism than a Biography, and is a notebook, practically devoted to a discursive and abortive effort to prove that Burton did not rank as a translator with John Payne. Wright also absurdly states that Burton borrowed much of the material in his “Arabian Nights” from Payne. The fact that this accusation was first made years after Burton’s death, and after the death of Lady Burton, Miss Stisted, and Mr. Wilkins, speaks volumes. The puerile charge disproves itself. As a matter of fact, Burton had collected his material for the “Nights” long before he met Payne, or before Payne had even thought of a translation.