

**ESSAYS FROM THE  
LONDON TIMES:  
SECOND SERIES**

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Essays from the London Times: Second Series by Samuel Phillips

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1852

### PUBLISHER'S ADVERTISEMENT.

THE success of a first volume of Papers from the London Times has induced the publication of a second. The articles in the present book are all drawn from a recent period of that journal; several of them, which have obtained quite a celebrity, from the numbers of the present season. They will be found to include, among other subjects, sketches of the chief literary characters of England of the day—the Tennysons, Dickens, Carlyles, Thackerays, Kingsleys.

It is proposed from time to time to continue these Collections, and a novel volume is in preparation to consist entirely of LEADERS FROM THE LONDON TIMES.

NEW YORK, OCTOBER, 1854.



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CAPTAIN PEEL IN THE NUBIAN DESERT.\*

HERE is a little unpretending volume which, in its own modest way, abundantly proves that "the age of chivalry is" not "gone;" that the age "of sophisters, economists, and calculators has" not "succeeded;" and that "the glory of Europe is" not "extinguished for ever." The immortal spirit of Edmund Burke may find consolation in the circumstance that "the unbought grace of life, the cheap defence of nations, the nurse of manly sentiment and heroic enterprise" is still among us; and, in truth, acceptable as is the testimony which is given to the fact in the few pages before us, the narrative of Captain Peel was scarcely required to convince us that the most intense commercial activity is not inconsistent with the sublimest humanity, and that the finest heroism may co-exist with the most steady and practical obedience to the laws of economic science.

\* *A Ride through the Nubian Desert.* By Captain W. PEEL, R. N. London, Longmans—1858.

Lord Herbert, of Cherbury, had he been among us, might, in his calmer moments, have taken such a ride as that upon which the young sailor ventured in his strong desire to mitigate the unhappiness of his sable fellow creatures. He left England on the 20th of August, 1851, on board the *Pottinger*, for Alexandria; and he embarked

“With the object of travelling in Soudan, hoping, by the blessing of the Almighty, to help to break the fetters of the negro, to release him from the selfish Mussulman, from the sordid European; to tell him there is a God that made us all—a Christ that came down and died for all.”

Soudan or Nigritia is a vast region of Central Africa with undefined limits, and unapproachable but by certain well defined perils of land and water, of climate and man, that might easily appal the bravest. They did not much distress the naval adventurer. “Resolution,” he writes—

“Stifled all objections and carried me aboard. We sailed, and then, knowing it could no longer influence my course, I gave way to the deepest despair. All that affection, all that temptation could hold out, rose in their most alluring form; and so time wore on, for the first days very heavily, till Cape St. Vincent awoke me to other feelings—reminded me of the enthusiasm of my boyhood. Now all homesick, lovesick yearnings vanished, and again I trod the deck with a high hope; my heart was lifted with England’s honour.”

The companion of the expedition was M. Churi, a Maronite of the Lebanon, 25 years of age, who had left his country when a boy to be brought up at the Propa-