

**THE RIDE TO KHIVA.
FROM "PUNCH"**

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The Ride to Khiva. From "Punch" by F. C. Burnand

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F. C. BURNAND

**THE RIDE TO KHIVA.
FROM "PUNCH"**

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From "Punch."

By F. C. BURNAND,

AUTHOR OF "HAPPY THOUGHTS," "MORE HAPPY THOUGHTS,"
"HAPPY-THOUGHT HALL," ETC.



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PREFACE.



AN APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC.

WHICH Public? The British Public.

The Title explains itself. I should not have called this work *The Ride to Khiva*—if it was anything but *The Ride to Khiva*. I said I *would ride to, and from, Khiva*. I am a man of my word. And *my word is as good as my bond*.

During my absence, the Editor of the Periodical in which these pages from time to time appeared, was the victim of an extraordinary fraud.

I forwarded all my notes by a Private Wire—an invention of my own.

A certain unprincipled scoundrel who deserted from his first regiment in the Crimea, and who has since been in almost every branch of the service at home and abroad, conceived the idea of representing himself as "Private Wire" *unattached* (my Private Wire was *attached*, and hence the very natural mistake on the part of the Editor at home), and received payment for carrying my messages—which had been communicated direct to my friend and agent, the Livery Stable Keeper, from whom I had hired my first horse for my ride to Khiva,—to the office of the Periodical in question.

Thus, through the credulity of my agent,

and the too confiding spirit of the Editor, I was placed in most embarrassing pecuniary circumstances ; and hunting men will scarcely believe that *I rode to Khiva without a check* !—yet such is the fact.

On my return, I immediately waited on the Editor, who, having unwittingly aspersed my character in his footnotes, most handsomely offered me all the reparation in his power. The affair has been pleasantly arranged, but in republishing the entire narrative I have purposely retained the Editor's Notes just as they appeared from time to time, together with his ample and handsome retraction at the conclusion of the work.

All I have to add is, that if at any time the Government should require, for a Secret

Indo-Russian Mission, a faithful and devoted servant *who has no objection to travel, no delicacy as to wearing disguise, who, generally speaking, knows his way about everywhere,* and who has an intimate knowledge of all the ropes, whether slack or tight,—then, a man with all these qualities, and more, combined, will be found in The Riding Representative,—that is, in

Yours truly,

THE AUTHOR OF THE RIDE TO KHIVA.

Appendix.—On inquiry, I find that Captain F. Burnaby did not go over precisely the same ground as myself. The present Rider may be congratulated on having discovered the shortest and the cheapest route. (*Vide Map.*)