

**A NARRATIVE OF THE EXPEDITION TO  
DONGOLA AND SENNAAR: UNDER THE  
COMMAND OF HIS EXCELLENCE ISMAEL  
PASHA, UNDERTAKEN BY ORDER OF HIS  
HIGHNESS MEHEMMED ALI PASHA,  
VICEROY OF EGYPT**

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A Narrative of the Expedition to Dongola and Sennaar: Under the Command of His Excellence Ismael Pasha, Undertaken by Order of His Highness Mehemmed Ali Pasha, Viceroy of Egypt  
by George Bethune English

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**GEORGE BETHUNE ENGLISH**

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1823.

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TO

HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S

CONSUL GENERAL IN EGYPT,

**Henry Salt, Esq.**

MY FATHERLY FRIEND IN A FOREIGN LAND,

THIS WORK IS DEDICATED,

WITH AFFECTIONATE RESPECT,

BY

THE AUTHOR.



## Preface.

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**M**EHEMMED ALI PASHA, the victorious pacificator of Egypt and Arabia, is already renowned in the civilized world.\* Egypt, once the home of Discord, and the headquarters of Anarchy, under his administration has long enjoyed peace and prosperity; is permeable in all directions, with perfect

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\* Mehemmed Ali Pasha, the present Viceroy of Egypt, was born of Turkish parents, at Porto Cavallo near Salonique in Macedonia. He came to Egypt about the time the French evacuated it, a Bimbashi or Colonel of Jannissaries. By his talents and courage, displayed in the war of the Turks against the Mamelukes, whom the Grand Seignor had divested of the government of Egypt, he obtained the good will and confidence of the Turkish Army, who elected him for their Chief. The Grand Seignor confirmed their choice and sent him the three Horse tails, and the Firman, constituting him Viceroy of Egypt and Arabia. He is now about sixty years of age, and his vigorous constitution promises a long life, which his distinguished talents will doubtless render useful and glorious.



safety to the merchant and the traveller, and is yearly advancing in wealth and improvement.\*

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\* For instance, a navigable passage has been cut through the rocks of the First Cataract, and a canal is at present in progress, by order of the Pasha, round some of the most difficult passes of the Second. He has completed a broad and deep canal from the Nile to Alexandria, by which commerce is liberated from the risk attending the passage of the Boghaz of Rosetta. The communication by way of Egypt with India has been opened, and a commerce yearly augmenting has been renewed between those two countries. Large establishments for the fabric of saltpetre, gunpowder, cannon and small arms, others for the fabric of silks, cotton and sugar, have been erected by the Viceroy, and are in operation under the superintendance of Europeans.

A well chosen library of the best European books on the art military, geography, astronomy, medicine, history, belles lettres and the fine arts, has been purchased from Europe by the Viceroy and placed in the palace of Ismael Pasha; where is also a school, at the Viceroy's expense, for the instruction of the Mussulman youth in the Italian language and the sciences of the Franks. To which establishments has been lately added a printing press, for printing books in the Turkish, Arabic and Persian languages, and a weekly newspaper in Arabic and Italian. The library and the press are under the superintendance of Osman Nouredin Effendi, a young Turk of great good sense, and who is well versed in the literature of Europe, where he has resided for several years by order of the Viceroy, for his education: he is at present engaged in translating into Turkish some works on tactics, for the use of his countrymen. Within the last year, it is said, that the Viceroy has levied a conscription of sixty thousand men, which he has caused to be trained to the

The Viceroy has been particularly attentive to revive and extend those commercial relations of Egypt with the surrounding countries, which once rendered it the richest and most flourishing territory in the ancient world.

For several years past the inland commerce of this favoured land had suffered great interruptions from the confusion and discord to which the countries on the Upper Nile have been a prey. The chiefs of Shageia had formed themselves into a singular aristocracy of brigands, and pillaged all the provinces and caravans within their reach, without mercy and without restraint; while the civil wars, which have distracted the once powerful kingdom of Sennaar for these last eighteen years, had occasioned an almost entire cessation of a commerce, from which Egypt had derived great advantages.

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European discipline; in which they have already made so much progress, as to promise to become a formidable body of effective troops.

His Highness the Viceroy in consequence determined, as the most effectual means of putting an end to these disorders, to subject those countries to his dominion.

Four thousand troops were accordingly put under the command of Ismael Pasha, the youngest son of the Viceroy, with orders to conquer all the provinces on the Nile, from the Second Cataract to Sennaar inclusive.\*

Through the influence of the recommendation of Henry Salt, Esq., His Britannic Majesty's Consul General in Egypt, I was ordered by the Viceroy to accompany this expedition, with the rank of Topgi Bashi, i. e. General of artillery, and with directions to propose such plans of operation to the

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\* Ismael Pasha is about twenty-five years of age. Mehemmed Ali had three sons. Toussoun Pasha, (who was the eldest, and died soon after his return from the War with the Wahabis in Arabia ;) Ibrahim Pasha, now about thirty years of age, who brought the war with the Wahabis to a successful issue, and Ismael, the conqueror of Ethiopia.