

**THE CAUCASUS AND ITS PEOPLE,
WITH A BRIEF HISTORY OF THEIR
WARS, AND A SKETCH OF THE
ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE
RENOWNED CHIEF SCHAMYL**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649414765

The Caucasus and Its People, with a Brief History of Their Wars, and a Sketch of the Achievements of the Renowned Chief Schamyl by Louis Moser

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

LOUIS MOSER

**THE CAUCASUS AND ITS PEOPLE,
WITH A BRIEF HISTORY OF THEIR
WARS, AND A SKETCH OF THE
ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE
RENOWNED CHIEF SCHAMYL**

THE CAUCASUS

AND ITS

PEOPLE,

WITH

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THEIR WARS,

AND

A SKETCH OF THE

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE RENOWNED CHIEF

SCHAMYL.

BY

LOUIS MOSER



LONDON :

DAVID NUTT, 270, STRAND.

1856.

246. G. 56.

LONDON:
T. RICHARDS, GREAT QUEEN STREET.

TO

WILLIAM FANE DE SALIS, ESQ.,
DIRECTOR OF THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL
STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

SOUTHAMPTON, 1856.

DEAR SIR,

I gladly avail myself of your permission to present to you this little work on the Caucasus, compiled during leisure hours in your Company's Steam Transport Service, from French, German, and original Russian sources.

I have been induced to offer it by the interest you are known to take in the affairs of the East, and also by the position you hold in the great Company which has taken so prominent a part in furthering the objects of the Crimean War, and in

bringing European energy to bear on Asiatic torpor.

The brave and long-continued struggle of the Caucasian races, against an enemy so greatly superior to them in physical force, has enlisted the sympathies of Europe in their favour; and it seems probable that events now in progress may render it desirable to obtain more accurate information concerning a country and people hitherto so imperfectly known, and, it may be added, so difficult to know well.

My little work can pretend to no merit but that of authenticity; but, on this ground, I would fain hope that it may prove of some public service, and that you will accept it as a trifling tribute of esteem and grateful acknowledgment of kindness received from you by,

Dear Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

LOUIS MOSER.

THE CAUCASUS AND ITS PEOPLE.

CHAPTER I.

Superb Scenery of the Caucasus.—Traditions connected with it.—The loftiest Peaks.—Side Ranges.—The Black Mountains.—The Andisch Range.—The Kaitach.—The Rivers of the Caucasus.—The Kouban, Terek, Kouma, etc.—Their tributaries.—The vegetation of the Caucasus.—Its amazing variety.—The animal kingdom, etc.

IN no region of the earth are the striking contrasts of scenery, in which nature often seems to delight, more magnificently displayed than in the Caucasus.

From the banks of the Don, and far and wide along the course of the Manytch and Kouma, stretches a weary waste of barren

steppe country, which gradually loses itself in the inhospitable slopes that bound the Caspian Sea. Abruptly and unexpectedly, however, from this dreary and monotonous plain, there arise, first a chain of hills, and then a mighty range of mountains, towering ever higher and higher, and throwing out spurs that slope into and embosom broad, sunny, smiling valleys, while, at the same time, the loftiest peaks rise to the height of everlasting snow; where the glaciers only melt sufficiently to feed the torrents, which leap roaring and foaming from cliff and cavern.

This varied and rugged range of mountains is covered in many parts with forests of the most luxuriant vegetation, though, as we have said, its wild, sharp peaks pierce beyond the line of perpetual snow: it extends from the Black Sea to the Caspian, and forms nature's boundary between the two

continents of Europe and Asia ; and on this range, with its numerous branches, offsets and headlands, the name of the Caucasus has been bestowed.

Tradition has chained Prometheus to the highest point of the Caucasus, and laid the scene of the Golden Fleece expedition on the lovely slopes that overhang the Black Sea.

The ark of Noah, too, is said to have rested on a peak of one of its branches, but beyond this, both history and tradition are nearly silent concerning this mountain land ; and there are, even at this hour, extensive tracts of country untrodden by European foot, and known to us only by the vague and uncertain glimpses afforded by hearsay or imagination.

The range of the Caucasus, with its thousand bare and fantastically shaped summits, extends for a length of one hundred and fifty miles, from Anapa, on the