INCIDENTS OF TRAVEL IN GREECE, TURKEY, RUSSIA, AND POLAND. IN TWO VOLUMES. VOL. I

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649611980

Incidents of Travel in Greece, Turkey, Russia, and Poland. In Two Volumes. Vol. I by John Lloyd Stephens

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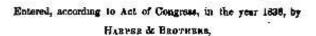
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JOHN LLOYD STEPHENS

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in the Clerk's Office of the Southern District of New York

PREFACE

TO

THE FIFTH EDITION.

Tax fourth edition of this work was published during the author's absence from the city. His publishers, in a preface in his behalf, returned his acknowledgments to the public, and he can but respond to the acknowledgments there made. He has made some alterations in the page relating to the American phil-Hellenists; and for the rest, he concludes as in the preface to his first edition.

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The author has been induced by his publishers to put forth his "Incidents of Travel in Greece, Turkey, Russia, and Poland." In point of time they precede his tour in Egypt, Arabia Petræ, and the Holy Land. The countries which form the subject of the following pages perhaps do not, in themselves, possess the same interest with those in his first work ; but the author has reason to believe that part of his route, particularly from the Black Sea to the Baltic, through the interior of Russia, and from St. Petersburgh through the interior of Poland to Warsaw and Cracow, is comparatively

139372

PREFACE.

new to most of his countrymen. As in his first work, his object has been to present a picture of the everyday scenes which occur to the traveller in the countries referred to, rather than any detailed description of the countries themselves.

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Nee-York, November, 1838

80

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1.60

CONTENTS

OF

THE FIRST VOLUME

CHAPTER I.

CHAPTER II.

. • 2

CHAPTER III.

CHAPTER IV.

CHAPTER V.

Ruins of Athens.—Hill of Mars.—Temple of the Winds.—Lantern of Demosthenes.—Arch of Adrian.— Temple of Jupiter Olympus.—Temple of Theseus.—The Acropolis.—The Parthenon.—Pentelican Mountain. —Mount Hy nettus.—The Pirgus.—Greek Fleas.—Napoli . . . 73

to,

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER VI.

Argos.—Parting and Fareweil.—Tomb of Agamemnon.—Mycens.—Gate of the Lions.—A Misfortune.—Meeting in the Mountains.—A Landlord's Troubles.—A Midnight Quartel.—One good Turn deserves another.— Gratitude of a Greek Family.—Megara.—The Soldiers' Revel Page 99

CHAPTER VII.

A Dreary Funeral.—Marathon.—Mount Pentelicus.—A Mystery.—Woes of a Lover.—Reveries of Glory.—Scin's Rocky Isle.—A blood-stained Page of History.—A Greek Prelate.—Desolation.—The Exile's Return

CHAPTER VIII.

A Noble Grecian Lady.—Beauty of Scio.—An Original.—Foggi.—A Turk ish Coffee-house.—Museulman at Prayers.—Easter Sunday.—A Greek Priest.—A Tartar Guide.—Turkish Ladies.—Camal Scenes.—Sight of a Harem.—Disappointed Hopes.—A rare Concert.—Arrival at Smyrna 149

CHAPTER IX.

First Sight of Smyrna — Unveiled Women.—Ruins of Epheson.—Ruin, all Ruin — Temple of Diana.—Encounter with a Wolf.—Love at first Sight. —Gatherings on the Road

CHAPTER X.

CHAPTER XI.

CHAPTER XII.

I

Mr. ChurchillCom	mod	lore Port	erCa	stle (f the	Sev	en 7	OWER.	-The
Sultan's Naval An	chit	ectLa	unch of	the	Great	Sh	ip	Sultan	Mah
moudJubilate	A 1	Vational	Grieves		-Visit	to	. 1	losque.	-The
Borial-grounds .		- 1 - 1	2 3 •33	30		es.		- Q	. 218

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INCIDENTS OF TRAVEL

.

IN

GREECE, TURKEY, RUSSIA, AND POLAND.

CHAPTER I.

A Hurricane.—An Adventure.—Missilonghi.—Siege of Missilonghi —Byron.—Marco Bozzaris.—Visit to the Widow, Daughters, and Brother of Bozzaris.

On the evening of the --- February, 1835, by a bright starlight, after a short ramble among the Ionian Islands, I sailed from Zante in a beautiful cutter of about forty tons for Padras. My companions were Doctor W., an old and valued friend from New-York, who was going to Greece merely to visit the Episcopal missionary school at Athens, and a young Scotchman, who had travelled with me through Italy, and was going farther, like myself, he knew not exactly why. There was hardly a breath of air when we left the harbour, but a breath was enough to fill our little sail. The wind, though of the gentlest, was fair; and as we crawled from under the lee of the island, in a short time it be came a fine sailing breeze. We sat on the deck till a late hour, and turned in with every prospect of being at Padras in the morning. Before daylight, however, the wind chopped about, and set in dead ahead, and when I went on deck in the morning it was blowing a hurricane.

13

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INCIDENTS OF TRAVEL.

We had passed the point of Padras; the wind was driving down the Gulf of Corinth as if old Æolus had determined on thwarting our purpose; and our little cutter, dancing like a gull upon the angry waters, was driven into the harbour of Missilonghi.

The town was full in sight, but at such a distance, and the waves were running so high, that we coud not reach it with our small boat. A long flat extends several miles into the sea, making the harbour completely inaccessible except to small Greek caiques built expressly for such navigation. We remained on board all day; and the next morning, the gale still continuing, made signals to a fishing boat to come off and take us ashore. In a short time she came alongside; we bade farewell to our captain—an Italian and a noble fellow, cradied, and, as he said, born to die on the Adriatic—and in a few minutes struck the soil of fallen but immortal Greece.

Our manner of striking it, however, was not such as to call forth any of the warm emotions struggling in the breast of the scholar, for we were literally stuck in the mud. We were yet four or five miles from the shore, and the water was so low that the fishing-boat, with the additional weight of four men and luggage, could not swim clear. Our boatmen were two long, sinewy Greeks, with the red tarbouch, embroidered jacket, sash, and large trousers, and with their long poles set us through the water with prodigious force; but, as soon as the boat struck, they jumped out, and, putting their brawny shoulders under her sides, heaved her through into better water, and then resumed their poles. In this way they propelled her two or three miles, working alternately with their poles and shoulders, until they got her into a charpel, when they hoisted the sail, laid di-

14