



NARRATIVE OF A JOURNEY
THROUGH
SYRIA AND PALESTINE

IN 1851 AND 1852

BY

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LATE LIEUTENANT DUTCH R.N., CHEVALIER OF THE
LEGION OF HONOUR.

TRANSLATED UNDER THE AUTHOR'S SUPERINTENDENCE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

"We walk by faith, not by sight."—2 Cor. v. 7.

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS,
EDINBURGH AND LONDON.
M.DCCC.LIV.

TO JOHN HENDERSON, ESQ.

OF PARK,

WHOSE KINDNESS, MORE THAN THAT OF ANY OTHER FRIEND,

ENCOURAGED AND ASSISTED ME IN MY INVESTIGATIONS IN PALESTINE,

THIS RECORD OF MY TOILS AND TRAVELS

IS DEDICATED

WITH SINCERE RESPECT AND GRATEFUL AFFECTION.

C. W. M. VAN DE VELDE.

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JOURNEY THROUGH SYRIA AND PALESTINE

IN 1851 AND 1852.

VIA MARSEILLES TO BEIRUT.

PARIS, *October 5, 1851.*

MY DEAR FRIEND,—There are moments in life which find us placed in circumstances of so great and so varied an import that we feel as it were awed and overwhelmed by them—a state of mind best expressed by silence. Such are my present feelings, on my way to the Holy Land—“a stranger from a far country going to see the plagues of that land, and the sicknesses which the Lord hath laid on it.”* One who would attempt to measure this “inheritance of the Lord,” looking, while so doing, to the prophecy, “Behold, I will set a plumb-line in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them any more”†—one who believes the promise, “that the old wastes shall be built, and the former desolations raised up, and the waste cities, the desolations of many generations, shall be repaired;”‡ and whose firm trust it is that the land “which as yet lies desolate in his sight, as he passes

* Deut. xxix. 22.

† Amos vii. 8.

‡ Isaiah lxi. 4.