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HERAT:

THE GRANARY AND GARDEN OF
CENTRAL ASIA.

WITH AN INDEX AND A MAP.



BY

COLONEL G. B. MALLESON, C.S.I.,

AUTHOR OF "HISTORY OF THE INDIAN MUTINY,"
ETC., ETC., ETC.

"You stand aloof from us, but you will be unable to continue this course; our country is good, and it is without a head; and, like a beautiful widow, it voluntarily avows her attachment to you, and you cannot refuse to accept her as a wife."—*A Kandahdri to Sir Alexander Burnes.*

LONDON:

W. H. ALLEN & CO., 13 WATERLOO PLACE.

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LONDON:
PRINTED BY W. H. ALLEN AND CO., 13 WATERLOO PLACE.

TO

E. Ashmead-Bartlett, Esq.

MY DEAR ASHMEAD-BARTLETT,

The Patriotic Association, formed to aid in upholding the honour and the interests of England without distinction of party, was founded by you, and has been brought to its present pitch of prosperity and influence chiefly by your genius, your energy, and your indomitable resolution. More than that. At a great crisis of the fortunes of England, when the Russian forces were pressing upon Constantinople, it was you who knew how to clothe in noble language the thoughts which lay dormant in the heart of every lover of his country; you, who to an immense assemblage of your countrymen painted in glowing words the dangers which must result from a policy of inaction, and who, appealing thus to the people, drew from them a response, which, at a vital period of its existence, materially strengthened the Government of their choice.

How active and how indefatigable, whilst unobtrusive, have been your efforts in every direction in the same great cause during the past three years is known only to those who, sharing your sentiments, have likewise shared your labours.

To you, then, as representing the opinions of the millions of our countrymen who place the greatness and interests of

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their country above all private considerations, I fitly inscribe a book the main purpose of which is to point to the action necessary for the maintenance of our great Eastern Empire. That Empire—if I may apply to it the beautiful expression of the Master of polished oratory of the present century—that Empire was cradled in its infancy by the genius of a Clive. May it be crowned in its culminating glory by the patriotic and far-sighted policy of a Beaconsfield!

I remain,

My dear Ashmead-Bartlett,

Yours very sincerely,

G. B. MALLESON.

27, *West Cromwell Road*,

15th *January* 1880.
