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OF

THE CAUCASUS.

A NOVEL.

BY

CAPTAIN SPENCER,

AUTHOR OF "TURKEY," "RUSSIA," "CIRCASSIA," ETC.



LONDON:

GEO. ROUTLEDGE & CO., FARRINGDON ST.,
AND 18, BEEKMAN STREET, NEW YORK.

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PREFACE

TO THE SECOND EDITION.

WE have great pleasure in laying before our readers a new and revised edition of this work, knowing as we do that it contains a true and faithful picture, not only as its name implies, of the fall of the Tatar dynasty in the Crimea, and the subjugation of that peninsula by the Russians, but also of the natural features, internal resources, and general characteristics of a region, whose name is now immortalized by the brilliant feats of arms of which it has become the theatre.

It is scarcely necessary to say, that when the pages of this work were first penned, we little anticipated that, in the Crimea, a battle would be fought involving the interests of the whole civilized world, still less could we expect that here the gallant sons of France and England would meet for the first time as brother warriors, and exhibit to the world what they can achieve when European freedom, the rights of nations, and civilization are staked on the contest; for truly the deeds of valour performed by these heroic men at Alma, Balaclava, Inkerman, &c., both individually and collectively, have never been surpassed—a succession of triumphs which will remain engraved on the page of history till time shall be no longer.

We cannot help observing that the aggressive policy of Russia during the reign of Catherine II., and which we have attempted to sketch, was then what it is now—selfish, unjust, and treacherous in its relations with foreign powers, and disposed to trample upon the rights of its feeblér neighbours, whenever it could be done with impunity.

We would also add, that this work having been written shortly after an extensive tour in the Crimea, and the vast steppes of Southern Russia; while the places we describe, the events connected with them, and the varied information we then obtained, were still fresh in our recollection, we can vouch for the accuracy of our details respecting the physical features of the country; and can, therefore, recommend it both as a guide to the traveller and as an assistant to the military man, when planning his line of campaign, since its various bays, straits, and harbours, together with its most important defensive positions, forts, defiles, valleys, steppes, caverns, rocks, and mountains, the scene of so many sanguinary battles between the Russians and the Tatars, are all indicated in the course of our narrative.

E. SPENCER.

RICHMOND, Dec. 12, 1854.

Go tell the sands, which Syria's plains disclose—
 Number the drops that gem the flowers of spring—
 Then mayest thou hope to count the crimes, the woes
 Which come to earth borne on Ambition's wing.
 Protector, emperor, president, or king—
 The name is nought—have paid, for wider sway,
 Man's blood and happiness. Yet fools will sing
 Their greatness, virtues. Why not weave the lay,
 And raise the monumental stone to beasts of prey?

Ambition slipped the leash, the blood-hound War
 Rushed through the world, whose fearful path we trace
 By wide-spread ruin ; while, behold, afar,
 The vulture scents the slain ; in death's embrace
 Lie hushed for ever myriads of our race.
 Why, then, will man Ambition's praise proclaim,
 Pursue the brilliant shade with eager chace,
 Exalt a bubble, gild with endless fame,
 Worship, adore, and magnify a breath—a name.