



THE OLD CASTLE OF KARS. From a sketch by Major Teesdale.

FRONTISPIECE.

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A NARRATIVE
OF
THE SIEGE OF KARS

AND OF
THE SIX MONTHS' RESISTANCE BY THE TURKISH
GARRISON UNDER GENERAL WILLIAMS
TO THE RUSSIAN ARMY :

TOGETHER WITH
A NARRATIVE OF TRAVELS AND ADVENTURES IN ARMENIA AND LAZISTAN;
WITH REMARKS ON THE PRESENT STATE OF TURKEY.

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P R E F A C E.



IN offering to the public this brief narrative of the recent campaign in Armenia, I owe it to myself to state, that in my adventure on the Allah Akbar mountain I lost some valuable papers relative to scientific observations on the atmosphere, the plants, birds, and fauna of that elevated region. This will, I trust, be taken into account by my readers, some of whom may perhaps not regret the loss of so much dry matter, while others will be sorry that the smallest contribution to science should thus have perished.

My connexion with the East is not of recent date. My first visit was in the spring of 1847, my second in the spring of 1849; and since that time I have never left Turkey until the fall of Kars severed my connexion with that country. I mention this that my readers may not think the few remarks I have ventured to make on the institutions of the country are the fruits of a hasty observation or mere hearsay. Still, knowing the extraordinary difficulty which a foreigner has in judging of the manners