

RECOLLECTIONS OF A DIPLOMATIST

BY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
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THIRD IMPRESSION

VOL. II

W. W. N.

LONDON
EDWARD ARNOLD
Publisher to the India Office
1903

C O N T E N T S

VOL. II

CHAP.	PAGE
XIV. THE MISSION TO CHINA IN 1859	1
XV. THE PEI-HO DISASTER	25
XVI. LIFE IN ENGLAND, 1860	53
XVII. EN DISPONIBILITÉ, 1861-1862	75
XVIII. ATHENS, 1862-1863	103
XIX. THE CESSION OF THE IONIAN ISLANDS, 1864	128
XX. BERNE, 1864-1866	155
XXI. LIFE AT BERNE, 1866-1868	188
XXII. ST. PETERSBURG, 1868-1869	228
XXIII. LIFE IN RUSSIA, 1870-1871	263
XXIV. CONSTANTINOPLE, 1871-1873	299
INDEX	341

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CHAPTER XIV

THE MISSION TO CHINA IN 1859

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MARCH soon came round, and, with it, the time appointed for our departure for the East. On the 11th we left Paris by the morning express to Marseilles. Mr. Bruce, Alexander Bower St. Clair (second Paid Attaché to the Legation), and Hugh Wyndham¹ (Unpaid Attaché), then still quite a youth, made up our party, and we also had with us "Punch" Vyse, whom Lord Malmesbury had just transformed from a captain in the Blues into a Vice-Consul in Japan. Admiral Sir James Hope, who was going out to take command of the China station, also travelled with us from Paris with his flag-captain, Willes, and the rest of his staff. The superstitious might have noted that our commencing the journey on a Friday was ominous of the ill-success that was to attend our expedition. Early on the 12th we were on board the *Ellora* P. and O. steamer, and on our

¹ Sir George Hugh Wyndham, K.C.M.G., C.B., late Minister at Bucharest.