

RUSSIAN HOSTS  
AND ENGLISH GUESTS  
IN CENTRAL ASIA

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# RUSSIAN HOSTS AND ENGLISH GUESTS IN CENTRAL ASIA

BY

J. T. WOOLRYCH PEROWNE



WITH SIXTY ILLUSTRATIONS AND A MAP

LONDON  
THE SCIENTIFIC PRESS, LIMITED

1898



*A. Kouropatkine*  
*Aschabad.*  
*Novembre*  
*1897.*

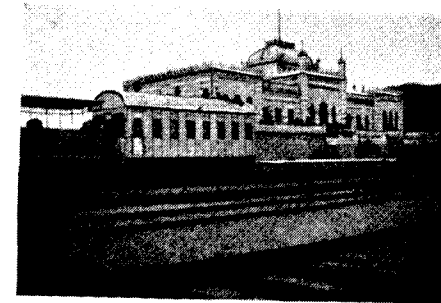
GENERAL KOUROPATKINE.  
Russian Minister of War and late Governor-General of Transcaspia.

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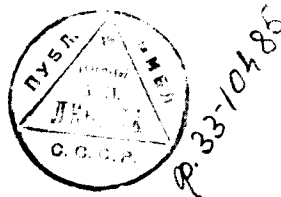


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TO  
MY WIFE  
I DEDICATE THIS  
BOOK



Printed by BALLANTYNE, HANSON & Co.  
At the Ballantyne Press

## PREFACE

IN the following pages I have done nothing more than describe a journey, made in November and December last, over the Transcaspian Military Railway in Russian Central Asia. I have purposely avoided any attempt to make a volume that should bring up to date our knowledge of the geographical or commercial or political aspect of the countries we visited. But I feel very strongly that there should be some permanent record left of a journey that was quite unique.

Until quite recently the very greatest difficulties were placed in the way of any foreigner who tried to penetrate the region which is bordered roughly on the west by the Caspian, on the north by Khiva and the Turkestan Desert, on the east by the great mountain walls of Afghanistan, Turkestan,