

A

HEROES OF THE
CRUSADES.

V. 21
474 BY

BARBARA HUTTON,

AUTHOR OF 'CASTLES AND THEIR HEROES.'

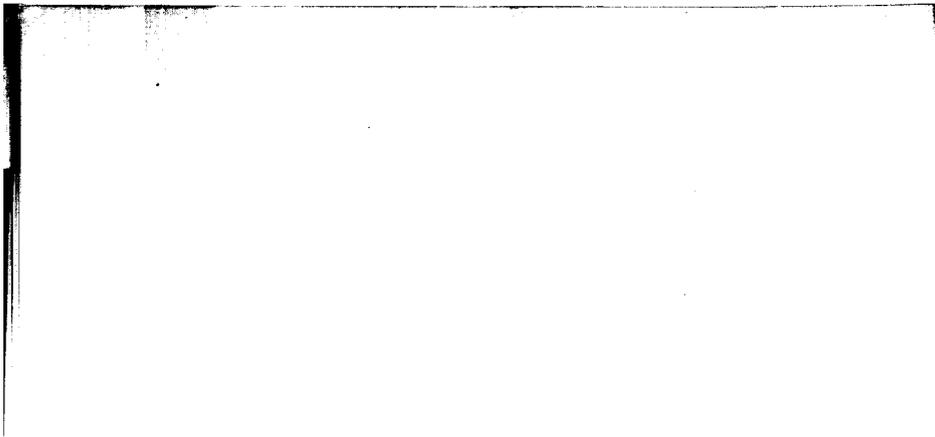
'Bound for Holy Palestine.'

5154

With Illustrations by P. Priolo.



LONDON:
GRIFFITH AND FARRAN,
SUCCESSORS TO NEWBERY AND HARRIS,
CORNER OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD.
MDCCLXIX.



MURRAY AND GIBB, EDINBURGH,
PRINTERS TO HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

5154



Peter Preaching the First Crusade.—Page 16.



PREFACE.

THE NEW world, with its new country
 church or cathedral, had not some-
 times seen upon full-length effigies of
 cross-legged knights, and been told that they whose
 bones reposed beneath those stones were Crusaders.
 It was sometimes, but not always so; as that dis-
 tinction was often bestowed after death on knights
 who had never fought out of their own country.
 Still one associates the cross-legged attitude with
 those who left their hearths and homes to fight in
 the Holy Land; and we feel an involuntary reverence
 for their remains, which thence over their graves a
 halo of romance. We cannot help being interested
 in those brave but mighty warriors. They had
 their blood in a vain cause, but we feel that they
 gave up a great deal when they fixed the cross
 to their shoulders.

A great many very interesting histories have
 been written on the Crusades. The following pages
 are not intended to be a history, but merely
 sketches of the principal points of those expedi-
 tions of the Middle Ages which, should they



P R E F A C E.

WHEN walking round some old country church or cathedral, have you not sometimes come upon full-length effigies of cross-legged knights, and been told that they whose bones reposed beneath those stones were Crusaders? It was sometimes, but not always so; as that distinction was often bestowed after death on knights who had never fought out of their own country. Still one associates the cross-legged attitude with those who left their hearths and homes to fight in the Holy Land; and we feel an involuntary reverence for their remains, which throws over their graves a halo of romance. We cannot *help* being interested in those brave but mistaken warriors. They shed their blood in a vain cause; but we feel that they gave up a great deal when they affixed the cross to their shoulders.

A great many very interesting histories have been written on the Crusades. The following pages are not intended to be a history, but merely sketches of the principal points of those expeditions of the Middle Ages which, should they

interest, may lead to the reading of better and graver books on the same subject. 'Heroes' they were in one sense; but, I fear, even the brightest examples of knights in those days fall very short of anything like real heroism. They were often cruel and barbarous; and many a dark deed took place in the Holy Land, in the name of the Cross, that shamed the cause of chivalry. Still the Crusades did much to civilise the West in the Middle Ages. The Saracens and Turks were looked upon as barbarians, but their Christian foes copied their manners and customs, and learned much that was good in the East. The earlier Crusaders, when they went back to England or France, contrasted their rude castles with Eastern or Italian palaces, rebuilding them in accordance with more refined ideas acquired in Palestine—the land that they conquered, but could not keep. The dangers that the Crusaders went through, the hardships they endured, may teach us a lesson, that to be heroic we must endure; and though many a century has passed away since the Crusades, we may find much to imitate in the story of those warriors of old who gave up, often from genuine motives, lands and home to become Crusaders, and to fight for the Holy Land.

'The knights they are dust,
Their good swords rust,
Their souls are with the
Saints, we trust.'

B. H.

OCTOBER, 1868.



CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

PETER THE HERMIT.

Peter the Hermit—Pilgrimage to Jerusalem—He pays toll at the gate—His personal appearance—State of Jerusalem at the time of his visit—Trade in relics—Pilgrimage of Robert Duke of Normandy—Visit to Rome—Death—The Holy Sepulchre—Impressions of its appearance on the Hermit—His interview with the Patriarch of Jerusalem—Resolve to rescue Jerusalem from the Infidels—Repairs to Rome and has an interview with the Pope—Sets out to preach—The First Crusade—Peter summoned by the Pope to a council at Clermont—Effect of his account of the wrongs of the pilgrims—Origin of the term Crusader—Preparation for the war—Its leaders—First disaster—The Hermit proves unfit for the command of an army—Disastrous end of the First Crusade, 1-23

CHAPTER II.

GODFREY DE BOUILLON.

Godfrey de Bouillon—Illness at Rome—Former training—Ancestry—Personal appearance—His desire to join in the First Crusade—Recovery—Origin of knighthood—Its antiquity—Necessity for the order of knighthood—Preliminary service required of a knight—Ceremony of knighthood—Its significance—Accoutrements—Reception of knights when travelling—Their privileges—Penalties of forfeiture—Godfrey de Bouillon's departure—