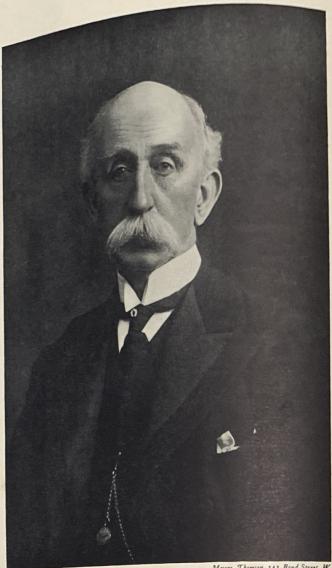
MEMORIES OF THE CRIMEAN WAR



DOUGLAS ARTHUR REID, M.D.

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Messrs. Thomson, 141 Bond Street, W.

Douglas A. Reid.

MEMORIES

CRIMEAN WAR

JANUARY 1855 TO JUNE 1856

DOUGLAS ARTHUR REID, M.D.

FORMERLY ASSISTANT SURGEON 90th LIGHT INFANTRY

With a number of illustrations from Photographs and Sketches taken during and after the Siege-not hitherso published—and a comprehensive Map, showing the position of the contending Armies in the various battles.

LONDON

THE ST. CATHERINE PRESS

OSWALDESTRE HOUSE NORFOLK STREET, W.C.

1911

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

FREDERICK ARCHIBALD VAUGHAN

THIRD EARL CAWDOR

CHAPTER I

Embarkation.—A Transport to Myself.—The Reason.—A Catastrophe Averted.—Rough Weather.—Malta and Constantinople.—At the British Embassy.—Arrival at Balaklava.—Condition of the Town.—Crowded state of the Harbour.—Meeting with old Friends.—Intense Cold.—Difficulties of Transport.

 $M_{
m Dockyard,\ on\ January\ 2,\ 1855,\ were\ two\ large\ trans-}^{
m OORED\ together,\ alongside\ the\ jetty\ in\ Portsmouth}$ ports due on that day to sail for the Crimea with reinforcements, ammunition, and supplies for the British Army. One, the Imperatrix, was crowded with troops-in fact it was thought at the time to be rather over-crowded-the other, the steamship Clyde, was empty so far as human freight was concerned. I had my orders to embark in the Clyde, to join the 90th Light Infantry, and on doing so was amazed to find myself the only passenger, with the exception of three purveyor's assistants in the forepart of the ship. It seemed a strange arrangement, seeing that there was a great dearth of medical officers just then, to send one out in a ship by himself when another ship, sailing the same day, would have provided him with plenty of occupation and relieved others who were over-worked and who might have been glad to have his help.

The explanation came the next day. We steamed out of Portsmouth Harbour at 8.30 on the morning of January 3 and anchored at Spithead, and, while there, twelve tons of ball cartridge were put on board, followed by a number of earthenware jars of percussion caps. On lowering the latter into the magazine one fell and was smashed, and the caps were scattered over the floor. We all turned to, with our

IMEAN WAR

was taken from the ruins of the

was assuredly nowhere to be found than where our batteries once stood and the ground in parts was literally paved with ere were ditches and trenches in which asket. They might be seen of every size, wn to the diminutive grape—jolly little spellation, but very nasty to run against the air. As to the fragments of shell, macadamised with them—jagged, rusty in size and form; one thought as one ut and gallant fellow received his quietus are they fell to the ground after their di-

ated cannon, some trunnion-less, others me burst into two or three pieces, and s from the hammer of a cyclop. You to the Malakoff, if the French sentries velled at the huge dimensions of those sed rather at their ever becoming ours esisted the utmost efforts of English and a medley of enormous earthworks, huge heaps of shot, and broken shell and ged and battered—a work of giants ree gloomy, fetid bomb-proofs, in which rn Russians lurked-vile, worse than accurate drawing of as much of the artist could embrace at a view, would e of the difficulties which the besiegers empted sketch of the fight. The state proof of the enormous loss the Russians s long and eventful siege, and especially



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PRINTED AT THE SAINT CATHERINE PRESS
INCORPORATED WITH THE ARDEN PRESS LETCHWORTH