

SCUTARI!





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SCUTARI AND ITS HOSPITALS:
BY THE HON. & REV. SYDNEY GODOLPHIN OSBORNE.



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SCUTARI AND ITS HOSPITALS,

BY THE

PREFACE.

HON. & REV. SYDNEY GODOLPHIN OSBORNE.

In the following pages I am afraid my readers will find little that can afford pleasure. If I had aimed at writing on this unhappy subject that which would have pleased, I must have aimed also to deceive. I can claim the truth for myself, the facts I relate, the given, are from an independent witness. I went upon my self-imposed mission, altogether unaffiliated, I had nothing to gain from any one particular course of conduct. I sought the truth, and took my own way to arrive at it. Whether that truth would please or displease the public, or the Government, was to me a matter of indifference; I had nothing to gain or to fear from either.

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put an end to the patient; they had not the strength to on them, of natures ordinary attempts at reparation; a very touch of the knife would have soon quenched the life.

the Barrack Hospital, was given up to the Russian sick prisoners. I was even more ashamed of the truths I must write, than of anything the reader has yet read. The condition in which they were allowed to remain, was most disgraceful. It was represented to me first through Dr. Alibert, one of them—a Pole I believe; he seemed a well educated intelligent man; I was jelly for some of his patients; his description of his own and their treatment was heartrending. I took care he had at once from a private source what he wanted. Some little time after, an English civil surgeon who had come out with the highest testimonials, was put in charge of the "Russian Sick." He came to me one day bursting with indignation at the condition they were in; no one seemed to care for them, from no one could he get anything for them. I that day gave an order to Stampa at Pera, to send him all he asked; I fortunately had funds at my own private command from which I could do it. I now took steps, to get at the real truth of how these poor creatures had been treated; I will spare the reader the details, suffice it to say, that from all I learned, this ward was witness to more gross neglect of one's sick and wounded fellow creatures, than any portion of any of the hospitals, with which I ever became acquainted.

The following one fact to which I defy contradiction, shall speak for all the rest; Dr. Smith the gentleman in charge of some of the wounded Russian officers, shewed me one poor fellow, with a thigh-bone broken; it was in a fearful state, the pain most distressing; in vain had Dr. Smith tried to obtain in the hospital a splint proper for such a case, by which the muscles might have been relaxed, and thus much suffering have been saved; a surgical implement common in every hospital, and used by every union surgeon. It is said *only two existed in the whole establishment*. I went with a friend, now in England, to two instrument shops at Pera, but could not succeed in getting one. Had the poor fellow lived but a little longer, it was my intention to have borrowed one from the French hospital. Dr. Smith is a man of independent character, and in a position to *speak out*, with no



I have here given to the reader two engravings of "relics" taken from Russians slain in battle; I had them from some Zouaves who had made them part of their spoil at one of the actions in the Crimea. The smaller of the two is a sort of Amulet or charm worn very generally round the neck by the private soldiers of the Russian Army. It is made of brass, the two sides shut over the centre.

The larger one was taken from the breast of a Russian Officer, under the following circumstances; he was killed by a bayonet wound; the point of the weapon struck the edge of the thin coating of plated metal which covers a piece of wood—yew, on which the picture of the Virgin and child is printed. The blow was given with such force, that there is a deep dent caused in the edge of the metal case and the wood. Had it struck lower down, I do not think any force would have pierced the picture, and thus the blow would not have been fatal.



FINIS.