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978-1-108-05349-5 - *Journal Kept during the Russian War: From the Departure of the Army from England in April, 1854, to the Fall of Sebastopol*

Frances Isabella Duberly

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Journal Kept during the Russian War

Frances Isabella Duberly (1829–1902) accompanied her officer husband to the Crimea as the only woman on the front line. Her letters home to her sister, highlighting the incompetence and negligence of the generals, and describing the appalling conditions in which the men were fighting, appeared anonymously in the press and, along with W.H. Russell's reports, helped stir public opinion against the prosecution of the war. This reaction persuaded Duberly to ask her brother-in-law to edit her diary, and it provoked a sensation when published in 1855. Although she occasionally conveys some of the elation of victory, the journal is more often a stark and disturbing document: following the battle of Balaclava she writes that 'even my closed eyelids were filled with the ruddy glare of blood'. No history of this brutal campaign can ignore this journal, and it stands comparison with any account of the horrors of war.

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THE RUSSIAN WAR:

FROM THE DEPARTURE OF THE ARMY FROM ENGLAND
IN APRIL, 1854, TO THE FALL OF SEBASTOPOL.

BY MRS. HENRY DUBERLY.

" Now all the youth of England are on fire,
And sliken dalliance in the wardrobe lies ;
Now thrive the armourers, and Honour's thought
Reigns solely in the breast of every man."

SHAKESPEARE.

" Je vais où le vent me mène,
Sans me plaindre ou m'effrayer.
Je vais où va toute chose ;
Où va la feuille de Rose,
Et la feuille de Laurier."

LONDON:

LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN, AND LONGMANS.

1855.

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TO
THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS
OF
THE CRIMEAN EXPEDITION

THIS JOURNAL IS DEDICATED

BY AN EYE WITNESS OF THEIR CHIVALROUS VALOUR AND

THEIR HEROIC FORTITUDE,

FRANCES ISABELLA DUBERLY.

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THE writer of this Diary accompanied her husband, an officer in the 8th Hussars, who left England, with his regiment, on the breaking out of the war, and she is now with him in the Crimea.

THE EDITOR.

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P R E F A C E .

I AM aware of many deficiencies in this Journal. It was kept under circumstances of great difficulty. I have always put down information as I received it, as nearly as possible in the words of my informant, in matters which I did not myself witness. I have endeavoured to keep free from comment or remark, thinking it best to allow the facts to speak for themselves. When this Journal was first commenced I had no intention whatever of publishing it; nor should I have done so now, had it not been for the kind interest manifested in it by many of my friends.

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