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George French Angas

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### **A Ramble in Malta and Sicily, in the Autumn of 1841**

In the autumn of 1841, George French Angas (1822–86) abandoned his conventional career in the City of London for a life of art, travel and zoology. Inspired by a childhood fascination with natural history, his accounts blend detailed antiquarian descriptions of temples and palaces with picturesque notes on livestock and wildlife. Published in 1842, this work was the first of Angas' books to charm the British reading public, and its success launched his new career as a prolific chronicler and illustrator of foreign lands. Opening with the journey to Malta, Angas begins his tour in Valetta, taking in the forts of St Elmo and St Angelo and various tapestries and paintings en route. In Sicily, he continues to document Mediterranean culture, making also an ascent of Mount Etna. Illustrated with fourteen engravings, this book displays the charm and diversity that defines the best nineteenth-century travel writing.

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GEORGE FRENCH ANGAS



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A R A M B L E  
IN  
M A L T A   A N D   S I C I L Y,  
  
IN THE AUTUMN OF 1841.

BY  
  
G E O R G E   F R E N C H   A N G A S.

*Illustrated with Sketches*

TAKEN ON THE SPOT, AND DRAWN ON STONE BY THE AUTHOR.

“It is a strange thing that, in sea voyages, where there is nothing to be seen but sky and sea, men should make diaries; but in land travel, wherein so much is to be observed, for the most part they omit it, as if chance were fitter to be registered than observation. Let diaries, therefore, be brought into use.—LORD BACON.

L O N D O N :  
SMITH, ELDER, AND CO., CORNHILL.

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To  
Her Most Gracious Majesty  
Queen Adelaide  
The following Pages  
are, by Her Majesty's permission  
most respectfully dedicated by  
Her Majesty's  
most obedient &  
obliged humble Servant  
George French Angas.

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## INTRODUCTION.

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To write a Preface, which shall display neither vanity nor egotism, has ever been acknowledged to be a task of great difficulty, even by experienced writers. I trust, therefore, that I shall be excused for evading it with this my first and very juvenile work, merely saying that I have endeavoured to make it as true as my powers of observation would permit, describing only those scenes which I have personally visited, and sketching the various characters whose evidences of "life and manners" have been accidentally brought under my notice.

I can but feebly express my gratitude for the encouragement and honour which I have received, in being permitted to dedicate the following pages to Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Adelaide, illustrating scenes so recently visited by Her Majesty, and which retain such memorials of Her Majesty's piety and benevolence.

I also beg to return my sincere thanks to my numerous Subscribers, who have thus so kindly assisted and encouraged me, especially when I remember that the following pages are compiled from my daily journal, and form but the descriptive detail of my sketches, which I trust may be found creditable evidences of the undeniable truth of Mr. Waterhouse Hawkins's new and infallible system of teaching drawing, as I had been the professional pupil of that gentleman but for four months when I made my sketches from nature, and on stone, as they now appear.

*London, September 20th, 1842.*

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