

**AN OFFICIAL CHRONICLE OF THE DEEDS OF
PERSONAL VALOUR ACHIEVED IN THE
PRESENCE OF THE ENEMY DURING THE
CRIMEAN AND BALTIC CAMPAIGNS AND THE
INDIAN, PERSIAN, CHINESE, NEW ZEALAND,
AND AFRICAN WARS, FROM THE INSTITUTION
OF THE ORDER IN 1856 TO 1880**

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An Official Chronicle of the Deeds of Personal Valour Achieved in the Presence of the Enemy during the Crimean and Baltic Campaigns and the Indian, Persian, Chinese, New Zealand, and African Wars, from the Institution of the Order in 1856 to 1880 by Robert W. O'Byrne

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ROBERT W. O'BYRNE

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EDITED BY ROBERT W. O'BYRNE, Esq.

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P R E F A C E.

IN military feats of individual valour performed as often by obscure as by conspicuous persons, the sources of the first illustrations of the most noble families of Europe are to be found. And of this prime feature of their pedigree the descendants of these families are usually more proud than they are of any subsequent honourable achievements. Indeed, so much is martial descent coveted by those who have risen to aristocratic rank, that, where veritable chronicle fails to confer it, tradition and fable are even by law and commerce frequently appealed to, to supply the deficiency. No other renown, we all feel—it may be very unphilosophically—emblazons like military renown. The highest civic dignity, the worthiest acts of civic virtue, look pale in the comparison; and Dr. Johnson was right when he said, that our greatest lawyer—the *omnis homo*, the all-accomplished Lord Mansfield—would feel inclined to creep under the table if the Duke of Marlborough were suddenly to appear before him. Since the mediæval era, however, it is only great captains who have inspired this sense of superiority. The subordinates of both services, and the common soldier and common sailor, have long since escaped all particular attention; and we must go back to the ancient times of Greece and Rome, and to the middle ages—to Troy, to Marathon, to stories of Horatii and