

**MALTA "SIXTY YEARS AGO": ALSO
A SYNOPTICAL SKETCH OF THE
ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM,
FROM ITS FIRST FORMATION TILL THE
EVACUATION OF MALTA**

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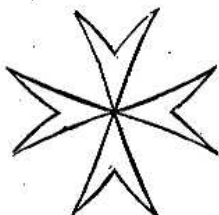
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CLAUDIUS SHAW

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A SYNOPTICAL SKETCH OF
THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM,
FROM ITS FIRST FORMATION TILL THE EVACUATION OF MALTA.

TO WHICH IS ANNEXED

A SHORT SKETCH OF THE CRUSADES,
AND A
CONCISE HISTORY OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

BY CLAUDIUS SHAW,

(LATE COLONEL,) AND KNIGHT OF ST. JOHN, AND SAN FERNANDO OF SPAIN.

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1875.

P R E F A C E.

THE cranium of an elderly gentleman who has travelled a good deal, and seen something, may be compared to an old garret, or lumber room, where things have been stowed away and forgotten ; yet some time or other an article may be wanted, it is remembered that such a thing has been put away, and a hunt is made for it. It is found, and with it many other old things are brought forward, and though hitherto forgotten, may be considered useful.

Such was the case in the present instance ; I

knew all along that somewhere I had an old journal, diary, or rather a lot of old reminiscences, which I hunted up, and then found things that had quite escaped all recollection, as they had been written above forty years, and had not been seen or thought of for at least nine or ten. So feeling great interest in the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and having been for some time stationed at Malta "Sixty Years Ago." I thought that I could make out a sketch of that Island which would throw some light upon its general history, and bring forward a few acts of the Order, showing what had been performed by them in former times, by stating what they had done in that Island, as well as in the Holy Land; and how they had, by their bravery, good conduct, and general knowledge, caused the Order to be so highly esteemed throughout Christendom, that even at the present day, after existing for near eight hundred years without a broken link in the

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chain, kings, noblemen, and gentlemen of the highest stations, are proud of being admitted to join its ranks.

Some of the early pages may be thought puerile; but as they all occurred on the way to Malta, there may be some excuse for introducing them, as they show how things were carried on in those days.

The old historical part, or Synoptical Sketch, terminates at the evacuation of Malta, where only sufficient is given to show some of the principal characters and occurrences of that period, in a general and concise history of the whole.

There has also been added a slight sketch of the Crusades, as they were the primary cause of the formation of the different Orders of knighthood in the Holy Land. And though the Knights of the Temple were frequently at feud with those of the Hospital, yet as they fought bravely in the

good cause, it was considered that a few remarks about them would make the history more complete, and after some little trouble, sufficient matter for the purpose was collected.

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