

**NOTES ON THE
CAUCASUS,
BY WANDERER**

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Notes on the Caucasus, by Wanderer by Elim Henry D'Avigdor

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ELIM HENRY D'AVIGDOR

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THE CAUCASUS.

CHAPTER I.

Introductory Remarks and Political Retrospect—The Army of the Caucasus.

THE Caucasus is by the Russian Government officially divided into Cis-Caucasia and Trans-Caucasia. By the former the steppes north of the main chain of mountains are indicated; the latter designation includes the provinces of Georgia, Mingrelia, Imeritia, on the west, and of Russian Armenia, Erivan, Shusha, Shirvan, etc., to the east and south of the sierra. The whole area consists, roughly speaking, of a conglomeration of mountains intersected by streams and rivers, sometimes cutting their way through the hills, at the bottom of deep gorges, sometimes widening into broad open valleys.

The Caucasus is divided across its centre from east to west by the rivers Koura (Cyrus) and Rion (Phasis), running respectively into the Black and Caspian Seas. These rivers, on account of rapids and other obstructions, are only navigable for a certain distance from their mouths; but their valleys, especially that of the Koura, into which the Araxes