# VILLIERS HIS FIVE DECADES OF ADVENTURE VOL. I



THE AUTHOR IN 1894

### VILLIERS

## His Five Decades of Adventure

By
FREDERIC VILLIERS
War Artist and Correspondent

VOLUME I



Hutchinson & Co.,

London
1921

VILLIERS: HIS FIVE DECADES OF ADVENTURE

, Copyright, 1920, by Harper & Brothers Printed in the United States of America Capt. R. E. POWELL, M.D., of Montreal, Major A. K. HAYWOOD, M.D. M.C., and the Nursing Staff of the Montreal General Hospital, I dedicate this book of adventure in grateful remembrance of their care and solicitude for my welfare during my prolonged visit to their excellent Hotel Dieu

#### **FOREWORD**

TO those who happen to pick up this volume and do me the honor of reading it I wish to state that they will find no fiction in its pages. Every incident I have set down can be corroborated by comrades, "many still living," who have shared my vicissitudes. There is nothing in this book, as the old adage goes, "to make the dead turn in their graves."

FREDERIC VILLIERS.

August, 1919.

#### CONTENTS

CHAPTER		PAGE
-	Foreword	Vii
I.	FIRST MEMORIES	
II.	SERBIA UNDER MILAN  King and Queen of the Tziganes—Our genial consul  A prince born to trouble—I meet Archibald Forbes  Carping critics—The hoof of the Turkish horse—My baptism of fire—A retreat in a storm—Winning my spurs—The lurid glow over the Maritza Valley—I witness many skirmishes—I assist surgeons in the field and at the base—Still another retreat—One of our fraternity killed.	
III.	THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP SEA I am ordered to India, but am shunted at Vienna for Turkey—I meet Valentine Baker for the first time—I start on an adventurous journey—I succor a man much against my will and am obliged to beard the lion in his den—I become acquainted with a great American, Januaris Aloysius MacGhan—He recommended me to go to Batac—I find a ghastly state of affairs there—I bring back three trophies and run three narrow risks, but I come out on top.	41
IV.	A JOB IN A GROCERY STORE	70

PAGE

CHAPTER

	I recover from the shock and make sketches of his army and return safely with probably the most interesting budget I ever collected for my paper—I receive a birthday gift from the Russian ambassador at the Court of St. James's—I am present at the firing of the first shot.	
V.	THE BATTLE OF PLEVNA	8:
VI.	THE BLACK DEATH	115
VII.	Eastertide in Palestine	134
VIII.	HILL FIGHTING FIERCE AND BLOODY The beginning of the trouble—Off to India—A memorable ride—The mystery camp—I am toasted—I guide the guides with my luminous pony—Where women wear the breeches—Cavagnari—Back to India with the treaty	152

CHAPTE	E .	FAGE
	—Through the hills—Across the plains—The dark bungalows and the daks—An enjoyable "sudden death" —The first Earl Lytton and his court—I leave for "Down Under."	
IX.	Down Under  Off to the Antipodes—Dances and pillow-fights by the way—Ceylon—Centuries-old tortoise—Sensitive plants —Sydney, the glory of Australasia—Gayety, fun, and frolic—New Zealand—Her urbane governor—Maoris —An impending rising—The King Country—Pink and white terraces—A seismic upheaval—Hawaii—San Francisco.	177
<b>X.</b>	GOTHAM  New York in the '80's—I meet an old friend of Plevna days, and many eminent people—General Sherman, Thomas Nast, Clavering, Gunter, Sir H. M. Stanley, Max O'Rell, General Horace Porter, Joseph Jefferson, Bill Nye, Mrs. Ella Wheeler Wilcox, Richard Mansfield, and Edwin Booth—A night with Edison in his lavoratory at Menlo Park—His first filament—I sketch the inventor at work—I lecture at West Point.	182
XI.	In Touch with Royalty	207
XII.	THE LITTLE CLOUD IN THE NEAR EAST The Alexandrian riots—Arabi Pasha—The British fleet arrives—The "Swell of the Ocean"—Lord Charles Beresford—I am his guest on board H.M.S. "Condor"—I am somewhat responsible for the hombardment of the	232

PAG
forts—The "Condor" is under fire and acquits herself
well-The water picnic-"Well done, Charley!"-The
famous gunboat puts to sea—The cable ship—A jour-
nalistic triumph—The burning harem.
XIII. CITY OF LURID LIGHT
The landing—Cameron and I penetrate to the square
-Gruesome discovery-Our wary movements-We
sight the American contingent—A welcome patrol—We
serve in the first fight ashore—Dead Horse Picket—A
scrimmage among the fishes—My broken-eared charger.
XIV. A GHOSTLY MARCH
I am invited to dine with the Guards—My vanished
host—Ghostly relics—The bivouac—Mysterious water-
wagon—The midnight scare—The silent army—Tel-el-
Kebir-Cold steel-The charge of the Irish and Scots-
The pipers in the trenches—My lost pony turns up.
XV. THE CROWNING OF A TSAR
Arabi and Tewfik-The lure of Shepherds-The
journalistic spider on the stoop—What comes into its
meshes-Two great explorers and a pro-consul-
"House of Commons" and a pair of dukes—Our fight-
ing Prince of Wales—Belated honors—I am made
Chevalier—Invited by the Isar to his coronation—My
bluff—A red-coated general—I am made prisoner—My
durance vile.
XVI. A Mummy Army
I meet Col. Fred Burnaby—A quick journey—Ad-
ventures on the Red Sea littoral—A ghastly sight—I am
nearly placed horse-de-combat—Hadendowahs at home
—Baker Pasha again—The charge of the 10th Hussars
—Rum and asparagus—Down with fever.
XVII. THE FUZZY WUZZY
A brush with Osman Digna—A friend in need—A
welcome ration—The sleeping army—The awakening
-Rallying groups-My uncertain horse-The fight
in Kipling's "The Light That Failed"—The "Fuzzies"
beach the Prince congress Mrs friendly Highlander

#### **ILLUSTRATIONS**

THE AU	THOR	IN :	1894	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	. •	Frontis	piece
My Cai	RT IN	THE	Bale	<b>LAN</b>	W	AR								Facing p	. 20
SERBIAN	RĘFU	GEE	s in 1	HE	FII	RST	B	\LK	AN	W	AR			<b>66</b> -	36
WINTER	Sceni	E IN	THE	Fir	ST	Ba	LK	AN	W.	AR				66	116