

## PREFACE.

I HAVE to thank Miss Sarah Robinson, of Portsmouth—"the Soldiers' Friend"—for kindly furnishing me with much of the information incorporated in this story.

My thanks are also due to Richard Stevens, late Private, Royal Marine Light Infantry, for his kindness in placing at my disposal his Journal—kept while in Egypt and the Soudan—from which many of the most stirring incidents of the tale have been gathered.

It may be well to add that most of the important incidents herein narrated are facts, and nearly all the remainder are founded on fact. It is hoped, therefore, that the story will contribute towards a just conception of a true and interesting subject.

R. M. BALLANTYNE.

HARROW, 1888.