

key, the government here begin to be apprehensive that sooner or later an attack will be made upon our eastern possessions; and are determined to collect the fullest information that can be gathered, respecting the countries lying between the company's territories and the dominions of the Czar.

I have been in the east, you know, and having got pretty well seasoned to the climate, and a little acquainted with the language and manners of the people, the Duke is kind enough to say that there is not a man in the army better fitted for the service than myself. But, whether I shall go direct to Constantinople, and, passing through Asia Minor look in upon the Tartars and Chinese, and then examine the nature of the ground, and estimate the natural defences of Hindostan; or whether I shall set out on a three years' journey through Russia, in order to measure the actual dimensions, moral and physical, of the giant of the north, and impart the result of my observations to our Cabinet, has yet to be determined by the great Captain of the Age; however, of this you may be assured, that, go where I may, I will endeavor to tip you a stave under cover of the Foreign office, and to pick up every queer thing that comes in my way to amuse you with at my return.

Who do you think called to see me the other day—no less a personage than old Blackwood the bookseller. I thought the fellow was mad, he treated me with so much deference and respect. After some hesitation he disclosed the object of his visit, by saying that Galt who, you know, was lately in Canada, having brought home a file of the Nova Scotian, he had read with amazement several numbers of the club; and as professor Wilson was getting along into years, and O'Doherty had somewhat impaired his faculties by hard drinking, he would either pay down a large sum per annum for the copyright of our reports, or, if the whole club would remove to Edinburgh, he would use his purse and influence to forward our fortunes, and make us ample compensation for every sacrifice. The Doctor, he said, he could introduce at once to a most respectable and lucrative practice; Halliday, after his admission to the Scotch