

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF GENERAL WILLIAMS.

Educated at the Common School and the old Academy at Annapolis Royal, and at the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, William Fenwick Williams was commissioned in 1825, and after serving in various home and other stations, he went in 1841 to Turkey, where he was employed in the arsenal at Constantinople, and in aiding the reorganization of the Turkish army. In the negotiation of the treaty signed at Erzeroum in 1847 he was British Commissioner, and was in 1848 British Commissioner in the settlement of the Turko-Persian boundary. For these services he received two brevets and was made a Companion of the Bath, Civil. In 1854 he was appointed British Commissioner with the Turkish army in Anatolia. The army was in such a condition that he soon was obliged to exercise the functions of a Commander-in Chief, which he was the better enabled to do by the rank of Pasha conferred on him by the Porte. He saved the remnant of the army from dwindling away, inspiring courage and confidence in troops ill-provided for, who had sustained severe defeat by the Russians not long before, and were badly demoralized. He went to Kars in September 1854, left an accomplished officer there during the winter to drill and discipline the troops there, and returned to Erzeroum, from whence he sought to obtain from the Porte, through pressure from the British Government, supplies of money, ammunition and clothing, while working unremittingly in organizing the men and material at hand. In the spring of 1855 he was enabled to attend to the defences of Erzeroum, which he did with laborious zeal and conspicuous ability. Learning on the 1st of June that the Russian army under Mouravieff was advancing on Kars, he hastened thither, arriving on the 7th. The Russian force of 25,000 attacked in the early hours of the 16th of June and were defeated, but in a few days had the place blockaded, and on the 7th August made another unsuccessful attack. In September provisions became scarce in Kars, cold weather set in, and at length the cholera broke out. Very early on the 29th Mouravieff attacked again with the bulk of his army, but after desperate fighting was signally defeated by General Williams and his Turkish troops, and retired with a loss of 6,000 men. Cold, pestilence and famine finally did the work which Russian skill, valour and superior numbers failed to accomplish, troops and citizens being reduced to a state of starvation. It was not until all hope of expected relief was taken away that, retreat being impracticable to his exhausted army, he was obliged to capitulate. The terms granted him were very favorable, the garrison marching out with the honors of war. Mouravieff told him he had no inclination to inflict unnecessary degradation and punishment on a gallant army which had covered itself with glory and only yielded to famine. He said to General Williams, "You have made yourself a name in history, and posterity will stand amazed at the endurance, the courage and discipline which this siege has called forth in