

....The romance of adventure contains in its records few greater sensations than were made by the publication in 1865 and 1867 of the travels of Arminius Vambéry. He had visited in person and seen with his own eyes the dreaded Bokara, Khiva, Samarkand and Herat, and returned to tell his story in London and settle down in a professorship in the university of Pressburg, his *Alma Mater*. Vambéry was a Hungarian, born of poor parents in 1832. He went to Constantinople, mastered the Turkish language, and published a philological work designed to show the common origin of the Turkish and Hungarian languages. In 1863 he set out on his adventurous journeys in Turkestan, where he got on successfully amid the dangers and exposures of that fanatic and cruel country, not so much by his tough fiber and courageous strength, as by those glib arts of polylingual speech, which carry a man further and with more safety than anything else in this world. He returned to great honors in London and Paris, and published his travels in three different works. He has now, after eighteen years, taken up his old theme again, and the result is a popular volume, which is apparently designed to give general readers all he has to say concerning himself and his adventures. It is entitled *Arminius Vambéry. His Life and Adventures, Written by Himself, with Portrait and Fourteen Illustrations*. Popular Edition. (Caswell & Co.) For general readers the personal character of this narrative will be an attraction. The general reader will say there is not a dry page in it. The comparison of this memoir with O'Donovan's, who went over much the same route, or with Stack's, who traversed the region on its southern edge, or with Palgrave's, who saw the same fierce Muslamism in its Arabian stronghold, confirms Vambéry and illustrates the immobility of the Oriental world. Vambéry, publishing so many years after his first book, proves himself to have been a true prophet. He foresaw at that time the movements which Russia has since made, and is now able to point to its presence in the Merv and to its possession of Khiva in confirmation of his views. In O'Donovan's pages the general complexion of the narrative reappears, substantially the same. It is more than probable that the next twenty years of Russian administration will make considerable changes. Meanwhile Vambéry remains the first European of this century who traversed these regions and saw them in the full strength and coloring of their unbroken and unsoftened Orientalism. The present volume makes no attempt at geographical or ethnographical description. What Vambéry has to say on these points must be read in his earlier volumes. The variegated picture of romantic adventure could hardly be given with more of the qualities which command popular attention, nor with more of the charm of animated style, than in this volume.