



# The battle of Dorking: Reminiscences of a volunteer

George Tomkyns] Sir Chesney

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Yo Uask me to tell you, my grandchildren, something about my own share in the great events that happened iifty years ago. lis sad work turning back to that bitter page in our history, but you may perhaps take proht in your new homes from the lesson it teaches. For us in England it came too late. And yet we had plenty of warnings, if we had only made use of them. The danger did not come on us unawares. It burst on us suddenly, âtis true; but its coming was foreshadowed plainly enough to open our eyes, if we had not been wilfully blind. We English have only ourselves to blame for the humiliation which has been brought on the land. Venerable old age! Dishonourable old age, I say, when it follows a manhood dishonoured as ours has been. I declare, even now, though fifty years have passed, I can hardly look a young man in the face when I think I am one oi those in whose youth happened this degradation of Old England-one of those who betrayed the trust handed down to us unstained by our forefathers. What a proud and happy country was this nfty years ago! Free-trade had been working for more than a quarter of a century, and there seemed to be no end to the riches it was bringing us.

(Typographical errors above are due to OCR software and don't occur in the book.)

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