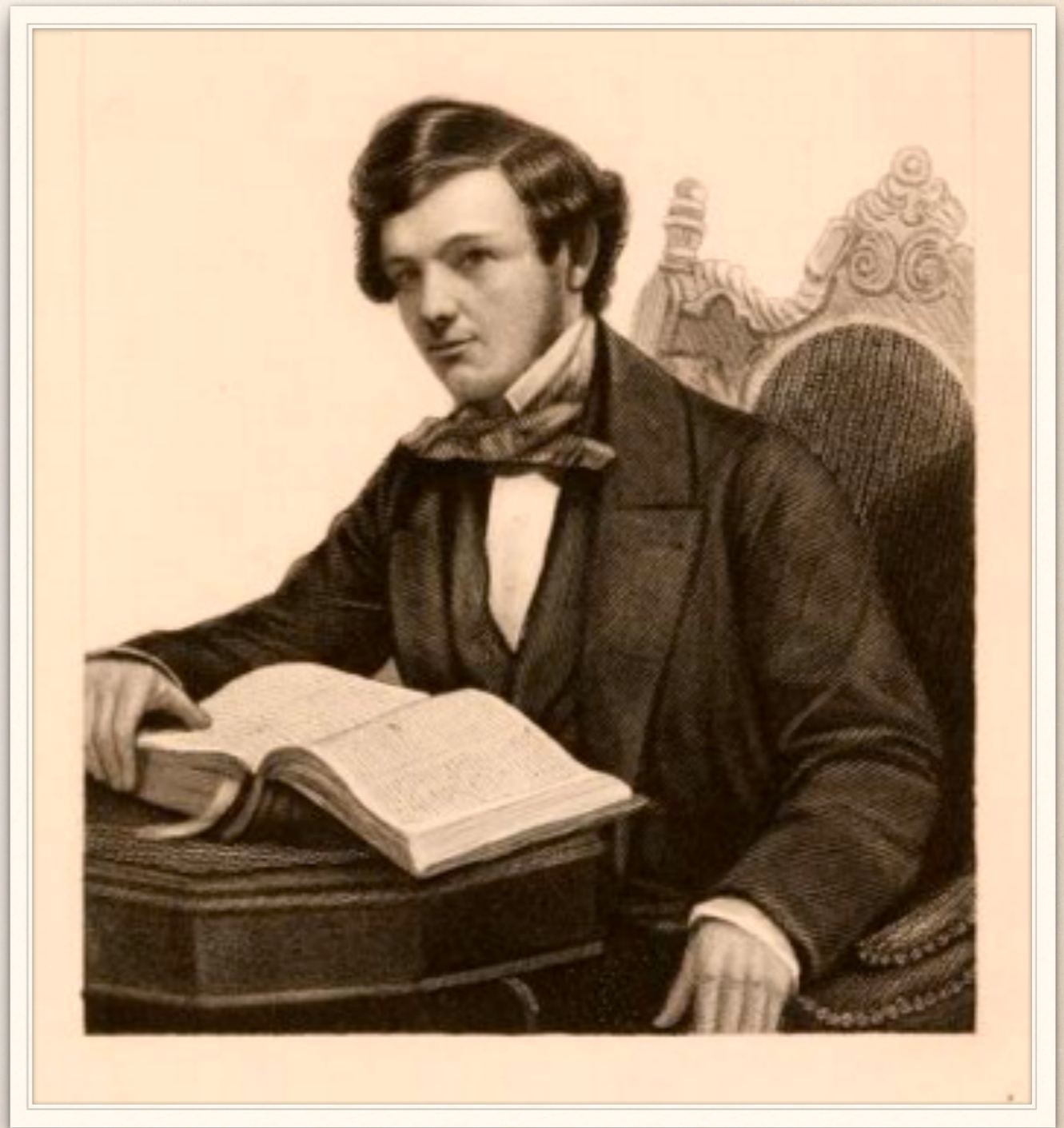
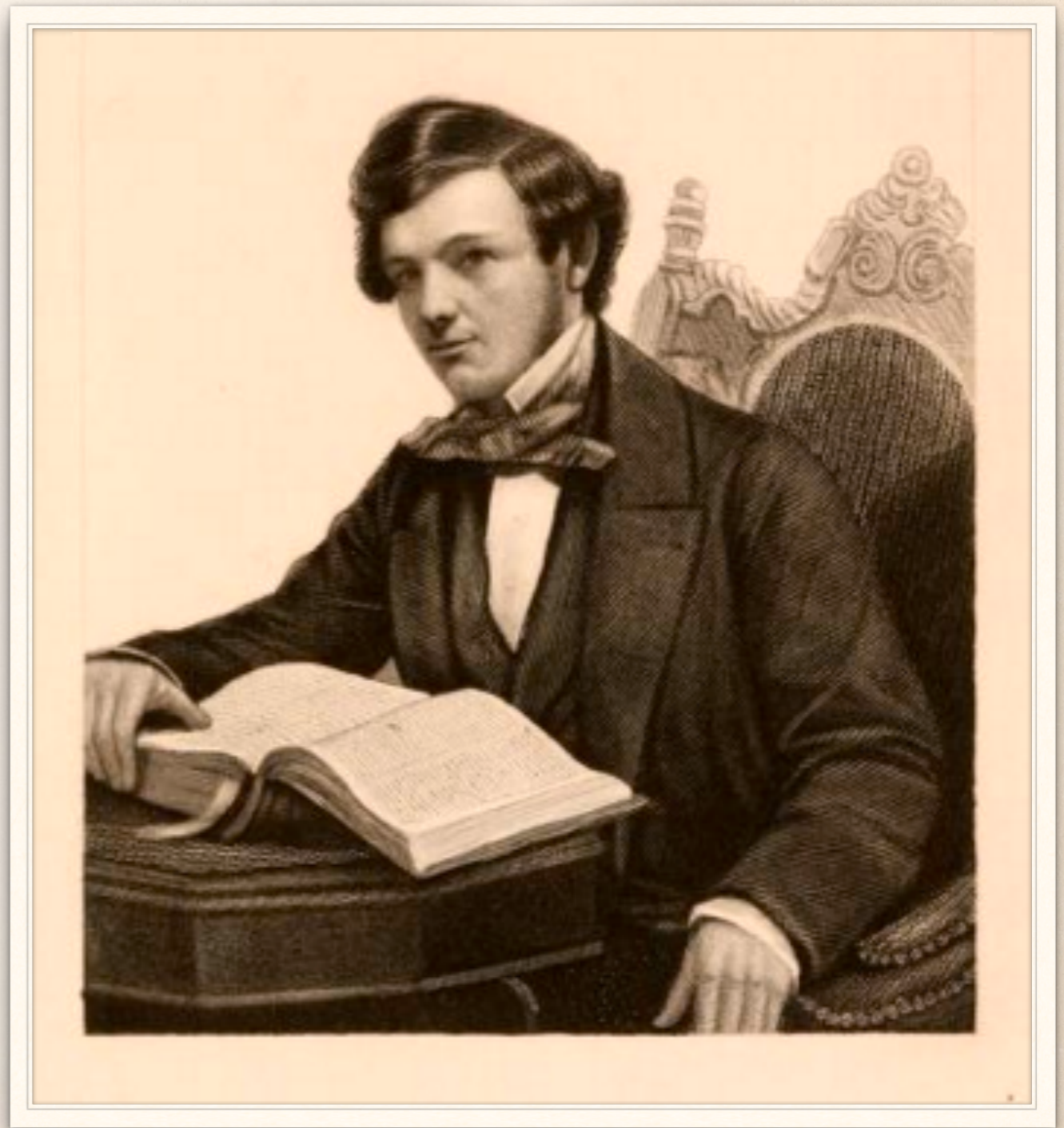


CAPTAIN
HEDLEY VICARS

1826–1855 (28)

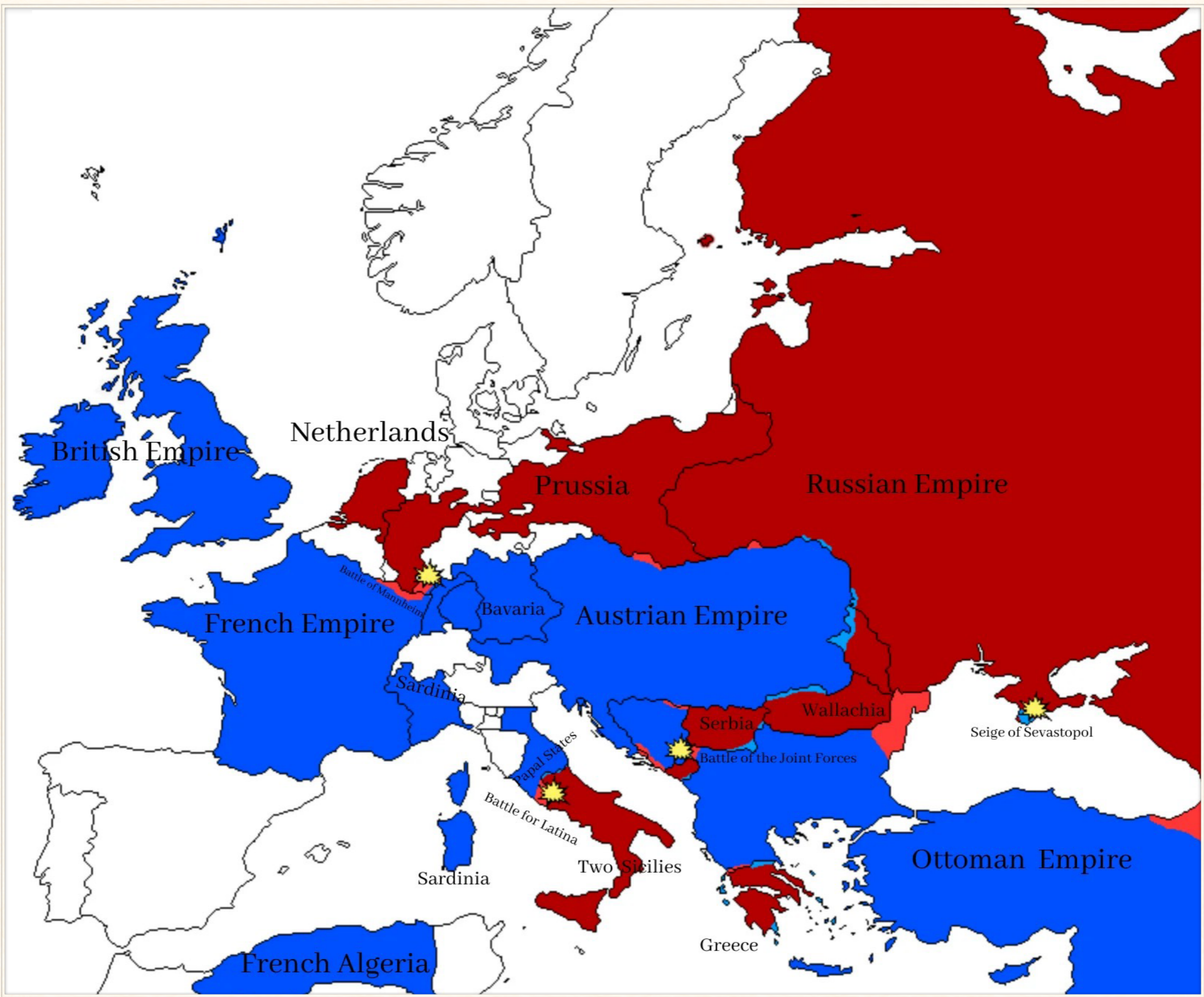


Captain Vicars
was a British
Army officer
who was killed in
action during the
Crimean War.



The Crimean War (1853–1856) occurred between Russia and an alliance of the nations of the Ottoman Empire, France, the United Kingdom, and Sardinia-Piedmont.





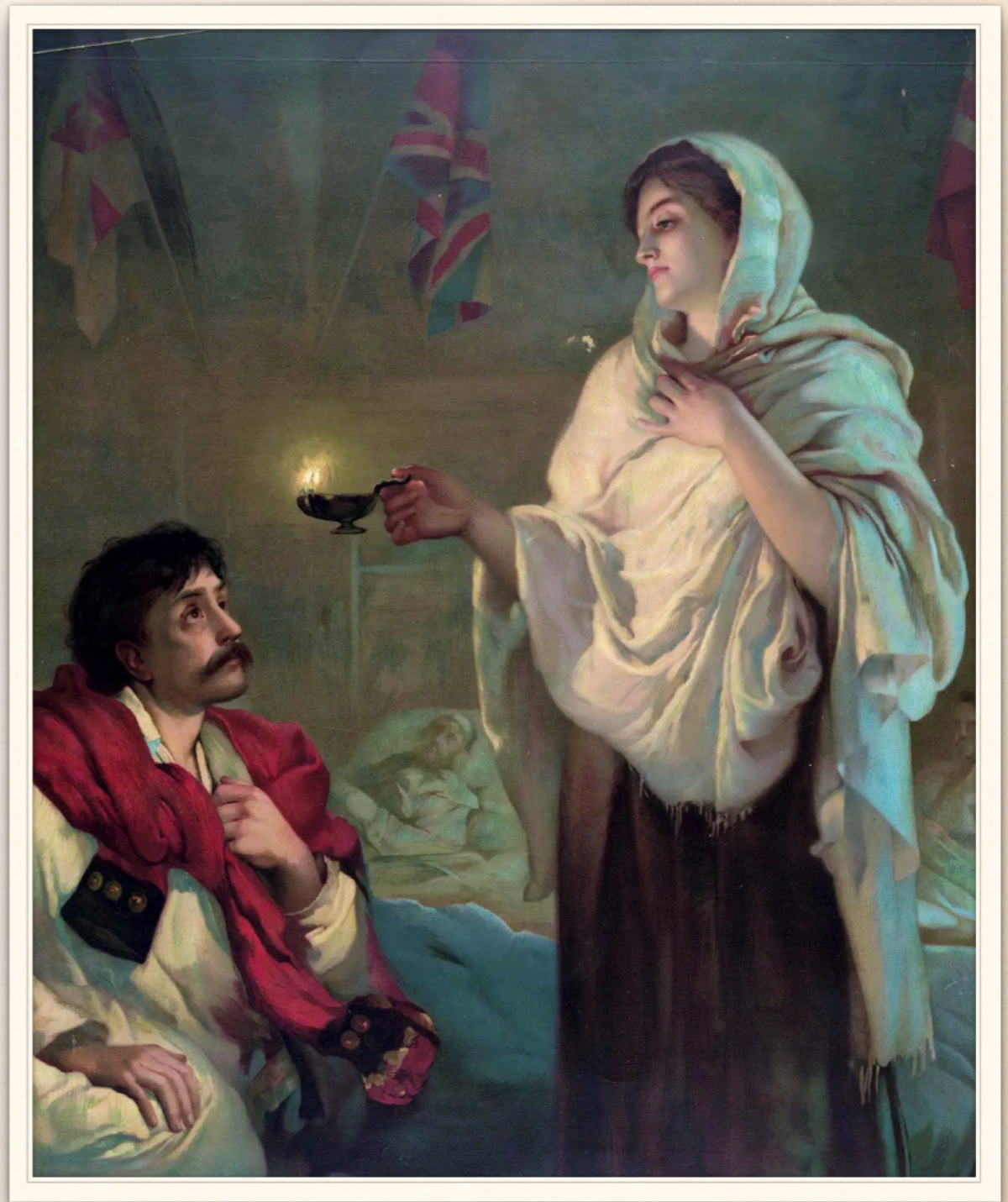
Dardanelles
Bosporus
Aegean Sea
Sea of Marmara
Black Sea



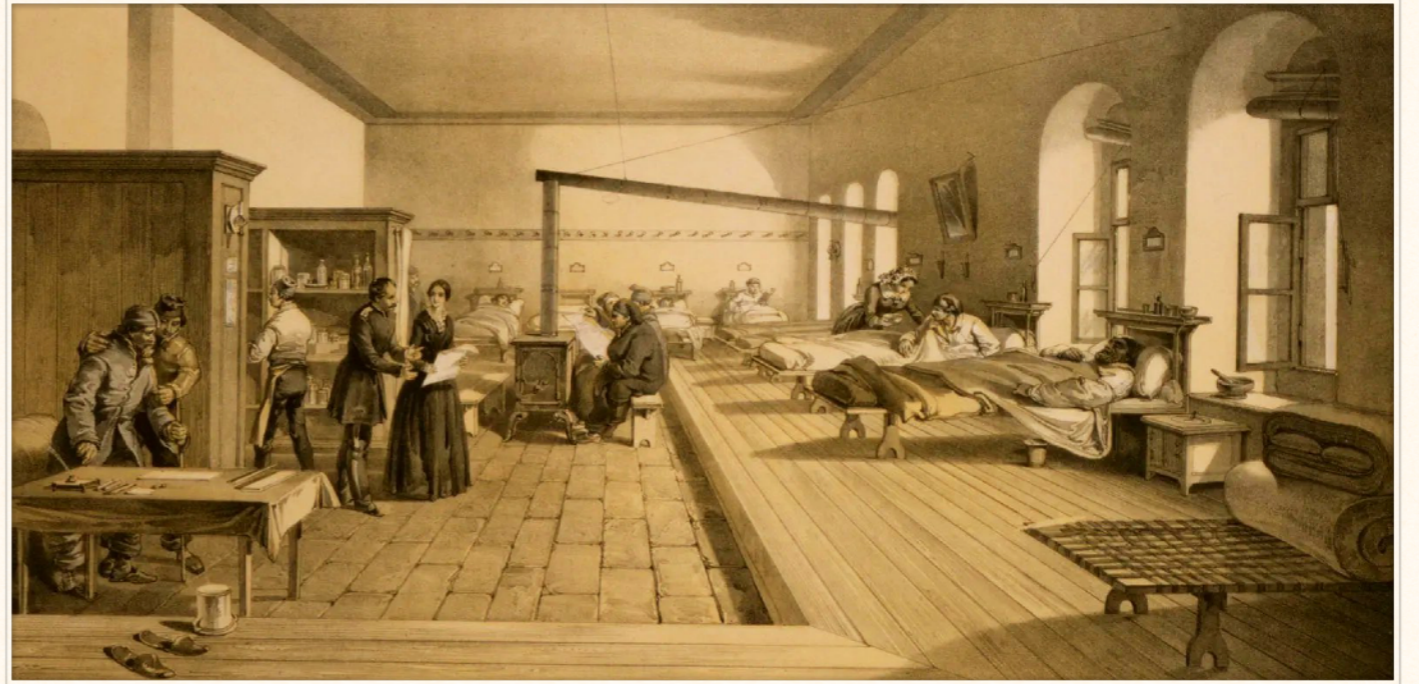
In **June 1853**, Tsar Nicholas I sent a Russian army to Moldova and Romania and in July occupied the Danubian Principalities in Romania under the control of the Ottoman Empire which responded by declaring war in **October 1853**. After Russia sank a Turkish squadron in Sinope, Turkey, Britain and France entered the war in defense of Turkey.



It was during the Crimean War that Florence Nightingale went to Turkey with a group of thirty-eight nurses to care for the wounded soldiers. They also wrote letters home for them.

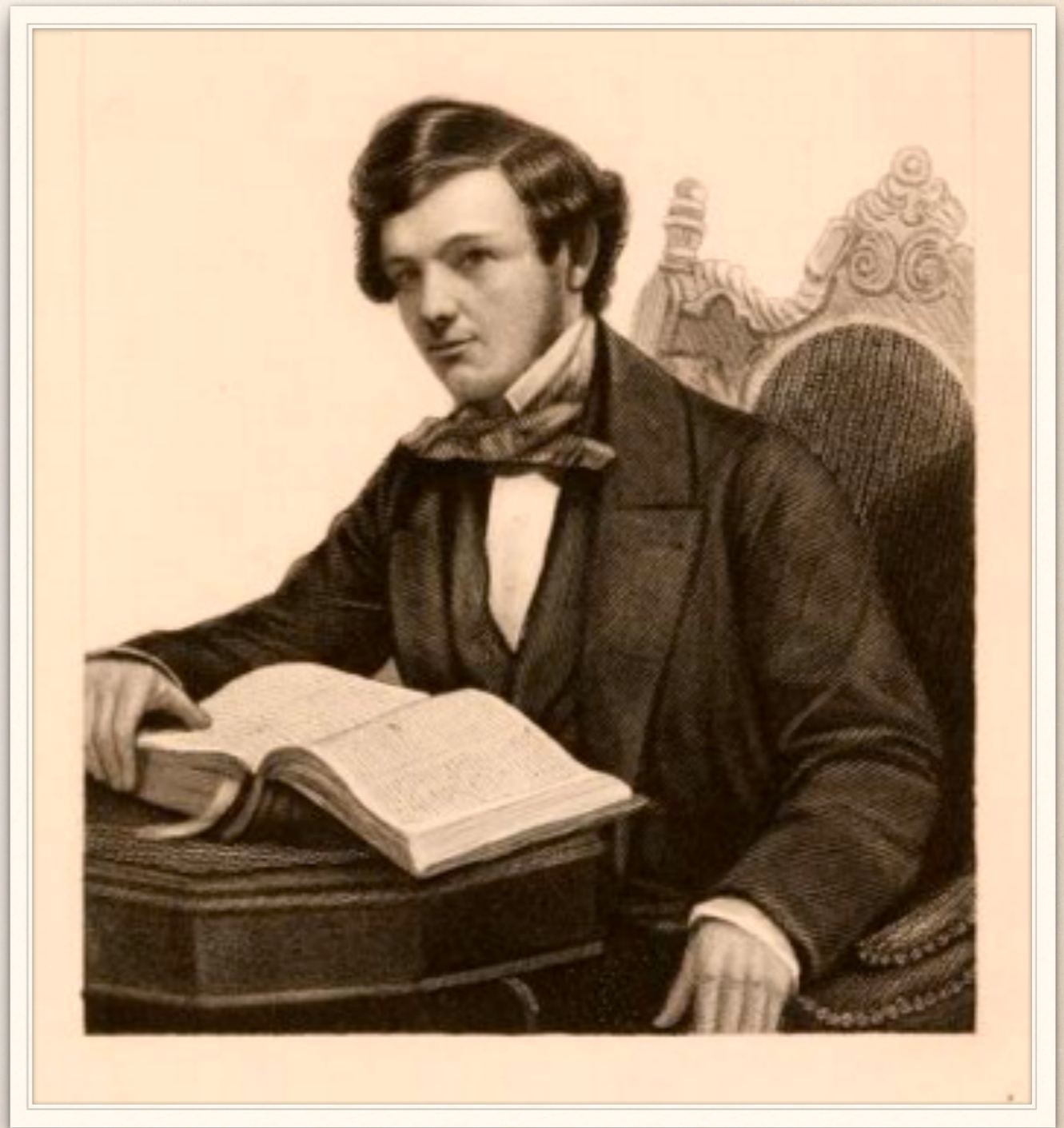


Lady with the Lamp



CAPTAIN
HEDLEY VICARS

THE CHRISTIAN SOLDIER



THE name of Captain Hedley Vicars—the Christian hero of the Crimean war—is familiar to most of our readers. On the morning after his conversion he bought a large Bible, and placed it open on the table of his room; he was determined that an open Bible for the future should be his “colors.” “*It was to speak for me,*” he said, “before I was strong enough to speak for myself.” His military comrades came in, and laughed at him—nicknamed him *the methodist*—hinted to him that he had better not turn “hypocrite;” but in spite of a perpetual guerrilla warfare of sneers and scoffs, he nobly stood by his colors. Having “clean hands, he waxed stronger and stronger.” In time he became a spiritual power in his regiment, simply by a steadfast, bold, decided witnessing for Christ. (James White, *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, January 13, 1863, p. 49)

It was in the month of November 1851 that while in the room of a fellow officer, waiting for his return, Vicars idly turned the leaves of a Bible which lay on a table. The words caught his eye, "The blood of Jesus Christ, his Son cleanseth us from all sin." Closing the Bible he said, "if this be true for me henceforth I will live by the grace of God, as a man should live, who has been washed in the blood of Jesus Christ."

(Catherine Marsh, *A Sketch of the Life of Capt. Hedley Vicars, the Christian Soldier*, p. 6, with slight edits)

That night he scarcely slept, pondering in his heart whether it were presumptuous or not to claim an interest in these words. During those wakeful hours he was watched, we cannot doubt, with deep and loving interest by the one, who never slumbereth nor sleepeth, and it was said of him in Heaven, “behold he, prayeth.” In answer to these prayers, he was enabled to believe, as he arose in the morning, that the message of peace was true for him—“a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation.” The past, he said, then, is blotted out, what I have to do is to go forward; I cannot return to the sins from which my Saviour has cleansed me with his blood. (Ibid., without edits)

On the morning which succeeded that memorable day, he bought a large Bible, and placed it open on the table in his sitting room, determined that an open Bible for the future should be his colours. (Ibid.)

“It was to speak for me,” he said, “before I was strong enough to speak for myself.” His friends came as usual to his rooms, and did not altogether like his new colors. One remarked that he had turned Methodist, and with a shrug retreated. Another ventured to warn him not to become a hypocrite. “Bad as you were, I never thought you would come to this, old fellow!” So for the most part his quarters were deserted by his late companions.— During six or seven months he met no slight opposition at the mess, and had hard work as he said to stand his ground. But the promise did not fail. “The righteous shall hold on his way; and he that hath clean hands, shall wax stronger and stronger.” (Ibid., p. 7)

THE WORK OF THE
CHRISTIAN SOLDIER

God has a work for his faithful ones to do, to stand in defense of the truth like faithful Noah. They will warn and entreat, and show by their works their faith. They stand as God's agents, as Noah stood, in noble, whole-souled fidelity, the moral character untarnished. They are saviours of men like their Master. They will be exposed to hatred and reproach as was their Master. Enmity will be aroused, hatred and false accusations will pour like a torrent around them to wrench them from their high moral position, but they have their foundation on the Rock, and remain unmoved at their chosen post of duty, warning, entreating, rebuking sin and pleasure-lovers by their moral rectitude and circumspect conversation.

(Counsels to Physicians and Medical Students, p. 5.2)

God's servants who will hear the "Well done" from his divine lips, will be **heroic ministers of righteousness, although they may not preach in the desk.** They are constantly ministering, loyal to their sense of God's claims upon them, jealous of their own selves, lest they shall dishonor the Lord that taught them to stand in defense of right and duty at any loss to themselves. **This is the work of the Christian soldier.**

That which will stand under the pressure of temptation is heart religion. The whole heart must be given to God; if any portion of it be withheld, we have no right to claim the promise of being the favored sons and daughters of God. (Ibid.)