



A History of the Knights of Malta or The Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, Volume 1

Major Whitworth Porter

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A History of the Knights of Malta or The Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem was written by Major Whitworth Porter (1827 – 1892) and published in 1858. On 20 Dec. 1853, Major Porter embarked for Malta, but in February 1855 was sent on active service to the Crimea. He served in the trenches at the siege of Sebastopol until June. For his services he received the war medal, with clasp for Sebastopol, the Turkish medal, and on 2 Nov. 1855 he was promoted brevet-major. After serving at home for eighteen months, he returned to Malta in December 1856. It was during his service in the fortress on this occasion that he made a study of the history of the island, and especially of its rulers, the knights of Malta. The result of this study was a work in two volumes, entitled 'A History of the Knights of Malta' (2 vols. London, 1858). On 2 April 1859 Porter was promoted first captain in the royal engineers, and returned to England.

This is Volume 1 of 2, and contains 567 pages in 14 Chapters, 15 Appendices, with 3 Illustrations. One of the most informative books on the subject of the Knights of Malta.

The illustrations and charts are also available for viewing and download at www.digitaltextpublishing.com

The Publisher has copy-edited this book to improve the formatting, style and accuracy of the text to make it readable. This did not involve changing the substance of the text. Some books, due to age and other factors may contain imperfections. Since there are many books such as this one that are important and beneficial to literary interests, we have made it digitally available.

Excerpts from the Preface:

...Malta has always been considered a most important and valued appanage to the British Crown, and its due security has been carefully and jealously guarded. Still, until within the last few years, comparatively but little was known of the island by the great bulk of the population of England. True, they all had been taught that it was a powerful insular fortress in the centre of the Mediterranean, half way between Sicily and the north coast of Africa, and that, prior to its passing under the sway of England, it had been the home, for upwards of two centuries, of a military community, called "The Knights of Malta." Some, perhaps, had even heard of its siege as a struggle reflecting great renown on the garrison of the island, and as one of the most protracted and heroic defenses made throughout the sixteenth century. But beyond this point little was generally either known or cared for.

....A demand having thus arisen for more detailed information relative to the previous history of the Order of Malta, it has been made a subject of much complaint that such information is very difficult to obtain. The only book in the English language, bearing any pretensions to the title of a popular history of the Order, is Sutherland's "Knights of Malta," published in Constable's "Miscellany." Now this book, which is, after all, but little else than an abridged translation of the voluminous quartos of Vertot, contains no details of aught but the political and public career of the Knights. On their internal organization and social history he is perfectly silent, and yet that is the point on which general interest is more particularly excited.

....Under these circumstances, and having myself experienced the difficulty which exists in obtaining, in a popular form, such information concerning the Order of St. John as is generally sought for, I have

endeavored, in the following work, to supply that deficiency, and to collect together, in a readable form, such details as I have gathered, after wading through an enormous mass of reading, from amidst the ponderous tomes of the public library of Malta, and its still more valuable Record Office, where papers and manuscripts of the deepest interest exist in countless profusion.

....Whilst following out a general history of the Order from its first establishment in Palestine,.....

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Jonathan Scott:

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have considerably more or little spare time? Yep, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a wander, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or read a book allowed A History of the Knights of Malta or The Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, Volume 1? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can smarter than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have various other opinion?

Dixie Love:

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Jeffery Herring:

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