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Osman-Bey and his work memoirs of the year 1855. The course of events in Georgia and the Caucasus

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The author of the memories — son of the Ottoman court physician Englishman Frederick Millingen, as well as — step son of the Turkish Grand Vizier Osman-Seiphy-bey Kybryslly-zade, he is as well — Vladimir Andreevich Osman-bey (1836 — not earlier 1901). During his visit and service in Russia (1873-1882) Osman Bey greatly contributed to the national oriental study. The first part of the article includes new biographic data about the author of “Memoirs of 1855”. A number of archival documents of the Collection of Russian Geographic Society (Saint-Petersburg) have been used. I deeply thank the head of the archival service of RGS of St. Petersburg M.F. Matveeva for the help. The second part of the article deals with the materials of “Memoirs of 1855”. As the adjutant of the commander of the Turkish army of the Marshal Mustafa-pasha Osman-Bey took part in military expeditions in the Black-Sea coast during autumn 1854 to summer 1855. The geography of his descriptions cover the territory from Batum to Gelendjik. It includes the portray gallery of the activists who took part in the realization of the Osman “Cherkessian project of 1855”. Besides its informative content “Memoirs of 1855” are of certain literature advantage that makes it the first class source in history of the so-called “Cherkessk question”.

Keywords: Crimean War, international relations, Caucasus, Ottoman army and navy, Russo-Turkish relations

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