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AUSTIN, CHARLES ALLEYNE SUMNER (1838-1903)

Born 17 January 1838, Charles Alleyne Sumner Austin was educated at Merchant Taylor's School and St John's College Oxford, where he was a Fellow. A student at Lincoln's Inn from 1862, Austin went to the bar in 1870 but his primary career was in special correspondence covering events in Madras, Bombay, Abyssinia, Paris, Madrid, Russia, Turkey, Afghanistan, Burma, and Australia. Best known as special correspondent for *The Times*, Austin also published in the *Saturday Review* and *Pall Mall Gazette*, and was briefly editor of the *Madras Times* and *Madras Daily News* in 1864. His work for *The Times* began with home correspondence, after which he took on special correspondence in Bombay (1867), before covering the Abyssinia Expedition (1867-8), the Siege of Paris and Paris Commune (1870-1), the massacres in Paris in June, August to October 1871 and January to May of 1872. Austin's special correspondence was marked by his sensitivity to the individual nature of human suffering, particularly during civil conflict. He favoured representative personal stories and a tone of immediacy in his writing. Austin continued as *The Times* special covering the Spanish Republic of 1873 from Madrid. His next major assignment was covering the end of Reconstruction and General George Armstrong Custer's attempts to deal with the race negotiations in the United States of America, which Austin covered from February 1876 to March 1877. Austin's interest in covering ongoing race problems in the United States saw him return to Minnesota from January to April of 1881, while he covered ongoing race tensions throughout the country. In the intervening years, still working as special correspondent for *The Times*, Austin covered the Russo-Turkish war (writing from July 1877-February 1878), Afghan war (writing from November 1878-July 1879), and Burma and Australia (December 1879-November 1880). In his later years, Austin wrote occasional pieces for the *Pall Mall Gazette* and died in London on 2 April 1903. **AD**

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