

and it would be difficult to exaggerate its value for historical and biographical purposes. It is not practicable in this place to give a full account of the papers Clive had stored during his strenuous lifetime. The collection consists of Minutes on important administrative measures which he laid before the Council, and the drafts of the more important Despatches to be forwarded to the Court of Directors. There are Memoranda on miscellaneous subjects of importance, and a mountain of bills. Clive had, as a Factor, before he became a soldier, been trained in the accuracy of mercantile method, and he kept his accounts with the greatest precision, and filed his bills with the utmost care. The Company obliged their servants to keep duplicates of their letters, and Clive acquired his lifelong custom of keeping copies, often written by himself, of his own letters. Among them is a copy of the first letter he sent to his father, when he landed at Madras, written in a firm, clear hand, and there are a few illegible lines written shortly before his tragic death. The letters written to him constitute numerous bundles, and those written by Stringer Lawrence, Eyre Coote, Forde, Watts, Scrafton, and other colleagues, are of the highest interest and importance. A number of letters written by Warren Hastings have come to light, and they supply an important gap in the biography of the great statesman who built the stately fabric whose wide foundations his great chief laid. There are also letters written by the leading statesmen of the day, and a multitude of epistles from all sorts and conditions of men, seeking his counsel, or his patronage, or his pecuniary aid.

Soon after these abundant materials were placed at the disposal of Sir John Malcolm he was appointed Governor of Bombay, and his biographer informs us that "he thought he might turn the leisure afforded to him by the long sea-
age to profitable account, by digesting his materials, and commencing the actual composition of the biography. He employed some of his young friends in copying his manuscripts." Malcolm embarked for Bombay on July 5th, 1827, and he arrived there on October 26th. On November 30th