

its composition ; and a person which, though slender, was remarkably active and graceful, we need not wonder that his attractions were such as to win the favor of all with whom he came in contact. At the university of Geneva, he was remarked for a diligent student, and for an active and inquiring mind ; and in especial was distinguished by his proficiency in the schools of mathematics and of military drawings. To his skill in this last branch, his subsequent rapid advancement in the army was in great part attributable.

André's father was a respectable merchant, whose success had been sufficiently great to convince him that his own profession was the very best his son could embrace ; yet not sufficient to enable him to give that son a fortune which would permit him to follow the bent of his own inclinations. In this relation, it would seem as though the old gentleman had pursued very much the same course as that adopted by the elder Osbaldistone, in *Rob Roy* ; and to a certain extent the consequences were alike. Summoned home from the continent, young André found a place assigned him in his father's counting-house, where for some time he appears to have undergone that training which it was hoped and expected would enable him to carry on successfully the business that had already afforded a competency to its founder. For, in the process of time, his father had found himself in condition to withdraw from at least the more laborious cares of his affairs, and, abandoning the residence in Throgmorton Street, had removed his household to a country-seat at Clapton, called *The Manor House*. This building, now used for a school, is still standing opposite to *Brook House*, Clapton Gate ; and the graves of several of its former occupants are to be seen in *Hackney churchyard*, hard by the old tower.

Although at this stage in his career there is no evidence that John André's conduct was that of

"A clerk condemned his father's soul to cross,  
Who penned a stanza when he should engross ;"

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