

ANTHONY TROLLOPE

CHAPTER I

APPRENTICESHIP TO LIFE

A "tally-ho" story — Anthony Trollope's ancestry, historical and apocryphal — Among the Hampshire novelists — Frances Milton's girlhood — Acquaintance with Thomas Anthony Trollope — Marriage and settlement in Keppel Street — Bright prospects soon clouded — Deep in the mire of misfortune — The American experiment and its consequence — Sold up — Mrs. Trollope becomes a popular authoress — Anthony at school — A battle-royal and its sequel — Rough customs at Harrow — "Leg-bail" — A family flight to Bruges — The future novelist as usher and prospective soldier — Friendly influences at the Post Office — Autobiographical touches in famous novels.

THE Norman Tallyhosier, who accompanied William the Conqueror to England, when hunting with his royal master in the New Forest, happened to kill three wolves; the King at once dubbed him "Troisloup." The changes and corruptions of successive centuries left the word Trollope. Such at least was the traditional account of the patronymic volunteered by Anthony Trollope, when at Harrow, to his school-fellow, Sidney Herbert, and afterwards forcibly extracted from him upon many different occasions by the boys, whose fancy it tickled or whose incredulity it provoked. Such scepticism was the more pardonable, because the earliest Trollope of any distinction, Si. Andrew, in the fifteenth century, rose to knighthood during the Wars of the Roses from beginnings more humble than would be expected in the case of one whose forefathers were personages at the Norman Court. However that may be, the Trollope stock can claim description