

MISCELLANEOUS.

GENIUS AND THE WRITING AGE.

Macaulay was forty-seven before he began his brilliant "History of England"; Gibbon was almost forty when he began his monumental work, which occupied him till he was turned fifty; Josephus was fifty-six when he published "The Wars of the Jews"; Washington Irving was seventy-two when he wrote his "Life of Washington"; John Knox was seventy-nine before he published his "History of the Reformation in Scotland."

Homer is said to have composed the Iliad when he was turned sixty; Virgil wrote his Bucolics between his forty-fourth and forty-eighth years; Coleridge published "Christabel" when he was forty-four; Wordsworth wrote the "Excursion" at forty-four; Browning wrote "The Ring and the Book" at fifty-seven; Dryden was sixty-eight when he began the translation of the Æneid; Cowper was fifty-three when "The Task" was published; Chaucer wrote the "Canterbury Tales" when he was turned fifty; Goethe, who was forty-six when "Wilhelm Meister" appeared, was ten years older when he published "Faust"; Pope was forty-five when he wrote his "Essay on Man"; Butler was turned sixty when he began "Hudibras"; Dante was fifty-one when he finished "The Divina Commedia."

Bacon was forty-one when he wrote the "Novum Organum"; Isaac Newton was forty-five when he finished his "Natural Philosophy"; John Locke did not complete his "Essay on the Human Understanding" till he was fifty-eight; Cicero was turned forty when he wrote "De Officiis"; Seneca was turned fifty when he wrote "De Beneficiis"; Kant was fifty-seven when the "Critique of Pure Reason" appeared; Swedenborg was turned sixty before the "Arcana Selectia" appeared; Burton published his "Anatomy of Melancholy" when he was forty-five; Rousseau wrote "Emile" at fifty; Humboldt was eighty-two when he finished his great work, the "Cosmos"; Machiavelli completed "The Prince" at forty-five; Sir Thomas More was seventy-three when he finished his "Utopia."

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