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To the friend of Humanity the name of Wilberforce has long been endeared, as the uniform, determined, persevering, and at length successful opponent of slavery; and to the Christian not less so, as the eloquent advocate of Evangelical truth, and the humble, consistent follower of the meek and lowly Jesus. But the incidents of his life are unknown to many who admire his virtues, and venerate his name. In the present state of public feeling on the awful subject of SLAVERY, and the interest which the question is exciting, and likely to excite among our neighbours in the States, it seems peculiarly desirable that the incidents in the life of the long-tried advocate of human rights should be brought before our readers.

This distinguished man was born on the 21st of August, 1759, at Hull, in Yorkshire, England, where his ancestors for many years were successfully engaged in trade. His great grandfather was one of the governors of Beverley in 1679. His paternal grandmother was the daughter of Mr. John Thornton, of London. His father, Robert, married Miss Bird, the aunt of the present bishops of

Winchester and Chester; and Mr. Wilberforce was the only son of this marriage. He had two sisters, one of whom was married to Mr. Stephen, the late celebrated master in Chancery, honourably known and remembered for his able and persevering exertions in the cause of abolition.

While very young he was placed under the tuition of the Rev. Joseph Milner, of Hull, author of the Church History; and afterwards he attended a school in the neighbourhood of London, boarding with a pious uncle and aunt, by whom he was introduced to the late excellent John Newton, who felt such an interest in him that he constantly remembered him in his prayers. Afterwards, in 1772, he was removed to the Grammar School at Pocklington, where he remained till he entered the University of Cambridge, 1776 or 1777. He took his bachelor's degree in 1781, and that of A. M. in 1788.

He had scarcely attained his majority when, in 1780, being returned Member of Parliament for his native town, he was introduced into the clubs and political meetings in London, and much caressed among them as a young man of the highest