

VERY POOR COPY

MISCELLANEOUS.

SIR WALTER SCOTT.

Sir Walter Scott was born on the 15th of August, 1771, and is the eldest son of Walter Scott, Esq. writer to the Signet in Edinburgh. His mother was the daughter of David Rutherford, Esq. who was a very able and popular practitioner of the same profession. His mother was author of several poems possessing some merit, and was intimate with Burns, Blacklock, and Allan Ramsay. Her poetry, if it did not gain a wreath for herself, certainly had a considerable share in procuring one for her son, by eliciting and cherishing the germ of poetry which existed in his bosom. This lady died in 1780, equally esteemed and respected for her talents, her accomplishments and her virtues. There are some verses extant—certainly none of the best that ever were penned—written by a Walter Scott, Esq. an ancestor of the subject of this memoir, eulogizing the ancestry of the family. It is no wonder, then, that with these examples before him, young Walter should have discovered an early propensity to poetry, and to which his having been born lame, and consequently incapacitated for the general amusements of youth, probably conducted in no small degree. Dr Adam, of the high school of Edinburgh, was his tutor; and the celebrated Professor Stewart, at the university of that city, completed his education.

The genius of Mr. Scott, like that of many of his celebrated and eminent contemporaries, was not precocious. He did not in his boyhood, discover any peculiar trait of natural ability; and probably had it not been for his mother's attachment to poetry, which drove him to literature and the muses, it is more than probable that the advocacy of legal causes at the Scottish bar would have been the summit of Mr. Scott's ambition.

The first productions of Mr. Scott were "The Chase," and "William and Mary," ballads from the German, but published without his name. "Goetz of Berlichingen," a tragedy of considerable power, appeared in 1800, translated from the German to Goethe, by Walter Scott, Esq. and at nearly the same period he contributed the two romantic and interesting ballads, called "The Boatswain" and "Glenfinless," the Lewis's "Tales of Wonder." This work had the honor of being indebted for some of its sweetest pieces to the talents of Dr. Leyden.

"The Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border" appeared in 1820, and was the first proof Mr. Scott gave off his having acquired sufficient confidence to present a work of considerable consequence to the notice of the world. He was not disappointed; it was read with universal interest, and received with universal approbation.

The studies of Mr. Scott at this period were entirely antiquarian. He lived and breathed only among the knights, the heroes, the monks and the robbers of olden time; the feats of cavalry, and the rough heroism of northern warfare and border feuds, were the scenes on which his soul delighted to dwell. He drank deeply of the stream of history as it darkly flowed over the middle ages and his spirit seemed for a time to be embued with the

mysteries, the superstitious, & the romantic valor which characterized the then chieftains of the north country.

"Sir Tristram" appeared in 1804, as one of the first remembrances of the ancient minstrels by our author, resulting from the prosecution of those studies.

In 1805 appeared "The Lay of the Last Minstrel." "Marion, a Tale of Flodden Field," which was first published in 1808, was the next favoured production of Mr. Scott. "The Lady of the Lake," which first appeared in 1810 is esteemed the best, as well as the most popular, of our favorite author's works. "The vision of Don Roderick" appeared in 1811, and was intended by its author to commemorate the achievements of the Duke of Wellington and the British army in Spain. This work is considered a complete failure. "Rokeby" was published in 1812. In 1814, "Lord of the Isles" appeared but failed to excite equal interest with its predecessors.

In addition to the works already mentioned, Sir Walter is the author of the "Scottish Novels," "Waterloo," "Border Antiquities of England and Scotland," and he has edited the works of John Dryden, Lord Somers's Collection of Tracts, Sir Ralph Sadlers state papers, poetical Works of Ann Steward, the Works of Jonathan Swift, and the Annual Register. Besides these productions, his "Life of Napoleon," and other heavy works published since 1827, need not here be enumerated.

Sir Walter Scott is the first person who received the honour of knighthood from his late majesty on his ascending the throne—it was highly honorable to both parties.

A very large portion of his property he has expended on his estates in Roxburghshire where he resides. He is one of the principle landed proprietors in that part of the country, and enjoys the blessings of a rural life, for which his disposition is evidently inclined. He rises early, and though he is lame, he frequently, both in walking and in riding, tires out his stoutest guests: in fact, as a pedestrian, or equestrian, there are few equal to him. Near his mansion are many scenes dear alike to the antiquary, the patriot and the poet; these he is particularly delighted in contemplating. In general society he is rather reserved in his manners.

The accounts of his poetry, the field sports and the formation of his different Waverley stories have been copied every where; but we have not seen the following quiet and happy description of the manner in which the author of Waverley settled down into a country gentleman before quoted.

"In the meantime years crept on and not without their usual deprivations on the passing generation. My sons arrived at the age when the paternal home was no longer their best abode, as both were destined to active life. The field sports, to which I was peculiarly attached had now less interest, and were replaced by other amusements of a more quiet character; and the means and opportunities of pursuing these were to be sought for. I had indeed, for some years attended to farming; a knowledge of which is, or at least was then, indispensable to the

comforts of a family residing in a solitary country house; but although this was the favorite amusement of many of my friends, I have never been able to consider it as a source of pleasure. I never could think it a matter of passing importance, that my cattle or crops, were better and more plentiful than those of my neighbours, and nevertheless I began to feel the necessity of some more quiet out-door occupation than I had hitherto pursued.

I purchased a small farm of about one hundred acres, with the purpose of planting and improving it, to which property circumstances afterwards enabled me to make considerable additions; and thus an era took place in my life, almost equal to the important one mentioned by the Vicar of Wakefield, when he removed from the Blue room to the Brown. In Point of neighborhood, at least, the change of residence made little more difference. Abbotsford, to which we removed, was only six or seven miles down the Tweed, and lay on the same beautiful stream. It did not possess the romantic character of Athiesteel, my former residence, but it had a sketch of meadow land along the river, and possessed, in the phrase of a landscape gardener, considerable capabilities. Above all the land was my own, like Uncle Toby's Bowling-green, to do what I would with it. It had been, though the gratification was long postponed, an early wish of mine to connect myself with my mother-earth and prosecute those experiments by which a species of creative power is exercised over the face of nature. I can trace, even to childhood, a pleasure derived from Dodsley's account of Shenstone's Leasowes, and I envied the poet much more for the pleasure of accomplishing the objects detailed in his friend's sketches of his grounds, than for the possession of pipe, crook, flock, and Phillis to a boot of all. My memory also, tenacious and quiet expression, still retained a phrase which it had gathered from an old Almanac of Charles the second's time, (when every thing down to almanacs affected to be smart,) in which the reader, in the month of June, is advised for health's sake to take a walk for a mile or two before breakfast, and if he can possibly so manage, to let his exercise be taken upon his own land.

With the satisfaction of having attained the fulfilment of a long cherished hope, I commenced my improvements, as delightful in their progress as those of a child who first makes a dress or a new doll. The nakedness of the land was in time hidden by woodlands of considerable extent—the smallest of possible cottages was progressively expanded into a sort of dream of mansion-house whimsical in the exterior, but convenient within. Nor did I forget what is the natural pleasure of every man who has been a reader, I mean the filling the shelves of a tolerably large library. All these objects I kept in view, to be executed as convenience should serve; and although I knew many years must elaps before they could be attained, I was of a disposition to comfort myself with the Spanish proverb, "Tene and I against any two."

Anecdote.—A penniless Hibernian stopped at a tavern in Massachusetts, and after much haggling with the landlord, agreed to give a shilling for a dozen of eggs. After receiving them, he apparently changed his mind, and told the landlord that he would give him the eggs for a half pint of whiskey. Paddy drank his blue rain, and was marching off Boniface objected to this, and demanded pay for the whiskey.

"Och, von spalpeen," said Pat, "and didnt I give you the aigs for the stuff ye call whiskey which is no more like whiskey than you are like a jontleman?"

"True," said the landlord, "but you shall pay me for the eggs."

"By st. Patrick, Returned the Irishman with a well feigned astonishment, "That's what I call Yankee impudence—I lave you the aigs and them you cant ask pay for; and as for the whiskey, I swap the aigs for it—no tricks upon travelers if you pliaze."

And bidding the astonished landlord adieu, he left him to speculate upon the profits of his bargain.

An Irishman and Dutchman, were sentenced to be hanged over a piece of water. The Irishman was turned off first; the rope broke and let him in, and he soon pulled off the noose from about his neck and cleared himself by swimming.

The Dutchman, seeing that, cried out. Oh! "Mine Cot; don't hang me dere, vor ven I comes py de vater I shall drown, vor I can't swim so as he can."

FAMILY LIBRARY.

HENRY CHAPMAN.
Propose to Publish by subscription the following Works, in one volume:
1. Southey's Life of Nelson.
2. Galt's Life of Byron.
3. William's Life of Alexander.
4. Bush's Life of Mohammed.

The Publisher hopes he shall receive the encouragement of the Canadian public in preparing these works of Select Biography. They form 6, 7, 10, of the Family Library, now in the course of publication in Britain, and have obtained the highest commendation from those most competent to judge of their merits.

This Province of the British Empire, blessed with prosperity and advancing in wealth, ought also to be advancing in education and intelligence. Among the means of promoting this end, the most obvious, is to supply Canadians with those standard works of British Literature which, while they furnish the most valuable information, may also improve the taste and foster the spirit of poetry and patriotism. The lives of our distinguished countrymen, will not only illustrate our civil history, but create a laudable emulation. Southey's Classical History of the immortal Nelson, will set before the reader the most illustrious instances of Britain's naval glory; and Galt's Life of Byron, will exhibit the history of a poetical genius, the most splendid perhaps of an age, though occasionally tarnished with moral defects, which brought misery on its author and injury to his countrymen—the last of which may in some measure be corrected by the instructive lessons which the narrative of his whole life contains. The Biography of Alexander, the successful Warrior, and of Mohammed the successful Impostor, will illustrate not merely the individual characters of those celebrated men, but also display remarkable epochs of history in which they were the prime actors. The one may deeply convince the reader how little the greatest military renown contributes to the warrior's happiness, when he gains it not in the defence of freedom, but in subjugating his fellow men. The other, by enabling him to judge of the private character and the real cause of Mohammed's success, will strengthen his faith in his own Divine Religion, which seeks not to enslave, but to emancipate the mind—which converts not by the sword but by the demonstration of the truth—and which renders its votaries wise and good; that it may prepare them for the felicity of reasonable and immortal beings.

CONDITIONS.—This work will be printed on fine paper, containing about 800 Royal Octavo pages, bound in extra gilt, & delivered to subscribers for Two Dollars and a half, if he pays one dollar less than the American Edition bound in boards.—It will be delivered to subscribers as soon as possible after completion.
Nagasaki, June 1841

PROSPECTUS.

WILL be published by (Subscription) Nagasaki, as early as a sufficient number of names is obtained, to cover the expenses. Works, entitled—1. A Faithful History of the hostilities on the Frontiers of Canada, during the late War with the United States of America: By a Person attached to the Army in Canada, during the war of 1812.
In offering the above work to the public, the writer is fully aware, that since the conclusion of the late hostilities, many Books, holding forth to be "Histories of the late War," &c. have been imposed upon the world, totally untrue in their information of the events which occurred during that unequal contest, to give

the least claim to the title to which they pretend to lay out their pretensions.

The object, therefore, of the intended author, being, for the two-fold purpose of endeavoring to remove the erroneous impressions on the minds of those unacquainted with the true state of things, by the removal of false and groundless legends, and of circulating and drawing to view the long neglected yet salutary services afforded by the British and other Provincial Cavalry Canada, in effecting the brilliant and successful operations of the war, at a time when they stood almost alone, in the unequal contest.

The above work will be printed on good paper, with a handsome type to contain about 800 pages, 12 mo neatly bound, and will be sold to subscribers at 50c per copy.

THE Subscription Papers will be open at the Office of the Proprietor, No. 12, Ave Maria Lane, and becoming responsible for the amount of the subscription money, will be closed at a future date.

Nagasaki, February 12 1841.

By reference to the above WORK, many causes have aspired since its commencement to induce the author to alter his plan of arrangement, as regarded its progress. It was first introduced, only, to give a narrative of the events of the war which transpired on the Canadian frontiers; but in pursuing that course, amongst the many objections which presented themselves, was one of such material consequence, as to leave no choice, but immediately to abandon the plan. It appeared that to detach that part of the History of the War from the Naval operations on the sea, and from the efforts which occurred in the south, would render it very incomplete, and a work by no means capable of satisfying the public mind. A detail, therefore, of every circumstance connected with the war, worthy of notice in a work of the kind will be given.

Another material change is made in the original plan of the work, in consequence of the numerous accounts of the causes of the war, found to have been introduced into the British Colonies by means of American publications, all of which, however, differing from each other in many respects, according to the various prejudices and partisan professions of the authors, but in the whole of which truth seems alike disregarded—namely, apparently, at no other object than to hold up the British Government as the most unjust, tyrannical and oppressive in the world. A fair, candid, and impartial review of the causes of the war will therefore be subjoined, collected from the best authorities, and in which the Canadian cause will be completely explained. The work will be delivered to subscribers, half bound, at 50c per copy.
Nagasaki, May 7, 1841.

STRONG BEER.

Each paid for by the Proprietor.
Westminster, 22nd, Sept. 1831. 106.

Cabinet Factory.

The subscribers beg leave to inform the public that they have established themselves in London in the Cabinet business, where they intend to have constantly on hand every description of work in their line.
N. B. Country produce taken in payment.
H. E. COLLENS & ELLIS.
London, July 7, 1831. 117.

Information Wanted.

The subscriber is anxious to obtain information concerning his brother John McQuinn (alias Siskimason and bricklayer) who emigrated from Engagevan, county Waterford in Ireland, in the year 1818. Letters addressed to the subscriber, care of James Johnson, Hamilton Gore District, Upper Canada, will be thankfully received.
Editors of Newspapers in the Canada, and the United States, are respectfully requested to give this an insertion.
JAMES M. SISK.

GUN SMITH.

WM. POWELL beg leave to inform the Inhabitants of London and its vicinity, that he has commenced business in the Town, where he intends to make and repair all kinds of Gun Rifles and Pistols, from his experience and knowledge of business he is confident of being able to give general satisfaction. He has on hand a supply of percussion caps, and detonating powder, as also, some best cast-iron Rifle Powder.
London August 4 1831. 417

New Goods.

Imported this spring from England.
JOHN SCOTCHDOPE, beg leave to acquaint his friends and the public that he has just opened his new store, (opposite to Mr. Phillips, Dundas Street) where he has on hand a general assortment of Hardware and Joinery Tools, Crockery and Dry Goods, with a variety of other articles well adapted to the Country. Having purchased his Goods at Montreal for cash and being allowed a liberal discount, he flatters himself that persons wishing to purchase will on calling at his Store find, that they will be enabled to do so there as advantageously as at any Store in Town.
London, Oct. 31 1831. 401

A CARD.

MRS. TERRY, Milliner and Mantu-maker, beg to inform the Ladies of London, and its vicinity, that she has just received with the latest New York and Montreal fashions, and could be happy to supply them with Bonnets Dress caps &c.
She has also a neat assortment of fancy trimmings such as Silks, Satins, Ribbons, Caps, Bonnets, Bandboxes, &c. &c. at low prices.
London, 16th, Dec. 1831. 109

Notice.

OLDS, informs his friends and the public that he still continues the Tanning and Currying business in its various branches at his Stand in Westminster at the ending and with dressing mills, lately owned by Messrs. Adams and Puffer—where he will at all times be ready to wait on customers and he pledges himself that those who favour him with their orders shall not be disappointed either in the quality of his work or in the promptness of the time in which the leather is manufactured.
Westminster 22nd Sept. 1841. 407