

JUVENILE ENTERTAINER.

"Torquet ab obscenis jam nunc sermonibus aurem."

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BIOGRAPHY.

The Progress of Genius

FROM OBSCURE AND LOW SITUATIONS, TO EM-
INENCE AND CELEBRITY.

Genius is that gift of God which learning cannot
confer, which no disadvantages of birth or educa-
tion can wholly obscure.

EMMANUEL KANT.—The celebrated Prussian
father of the *Kant Philosophy*, received his
education at the parish charity school. In
progress of time he obtained the degree of M.A.
Upon commencing public lecturer, he was at-
tended by a number of pupils. He now became
most prolific writer in Natural Philosophy and
Metaphysics, in the latter of which he chiefly
excelled.

He published a prodigious number of works,
his principles made considerable noise in
Germany.

MARTIN LUTHER.—The great Reformer, was
son of mean parentage, and was designed for
a civilian; but walking in the fields one day his
companion was struck dead by lightning, which
made such an impression on his mind, that he
retired from the world, and went unto a monas-
tery of the order of St. Augustine.

In this seclusion the rays of Truth beamed on
his soul; for happening to meet with a Latin
book, he read it with care and avidity, and his
penetrating mind soon discovered the manifest
difference betwixt the doctrines of the Gospel
and the practices of the church of Rome. The
impression became deeper and deeper, till at
last the iniquitous sale of indulgences, roused
his indignation to such a pitch, as made him bid
adieu to the world, and throw off all allegiance to the
papacy.

JAMES HAY BEATTIE.—This was a youth of
great eminence, both from his genius and ap-
plication. Unhappily he was cut off in the spring
of his life, before the maturity of that fruit which
he was every reason to expect. He was the
son of the celebrated Dr. Beattie, and was
born Nov. 6th 1768, and was named James
Hay, in compliment to the patronage of the earl
Errol. He was educated at the grammar-

school of Aberdeen, and afterwards at the Ma-
rischal college, and his progress was such as
might be expected from his great endowments,
unremitted attention, and extraordinary advan-
tages. He took the degree of M. A. in 1786,
being then in his eighteenth year, and such was
the estimation in which he was held, that in
June 1787, he was recommended by the Uni-
versity to the crown, to be appointed assistant
to his father in the professorship of moral phi-
losophy and logic. The two following winters he
acquitted himself in a manner which gave uni-
versal satisfaction and excited high expectation
that his fame would not fall short of that of his
father; but those hopes were too soon doomed to
suffer disappointment. In the night of No-
vember 30, 1789, he was seized with a violent
fever, and although before morning such a per-
spiration ensued as carried the fever off, yet he
was left in such an extreme debility: that his life
was in eminent hazard. From this he never
recovered, although he still languished for near-
ly a year, till Nov. 19th, 1798, when he died
with the universal regret of all who valued dis-
tinguished talent, and extraordinary moral ex-
cellence. He was buried in St. Nicholas' church-
yard. His father had fortitude enough to pub-
lish a small volume of his compositions in prose
and verse, with a short account of his life.

Much praise was due to Dr. Beattie for the
unremitted care, and extraordinary skill with
which he cultivated the promising talents of his
son, and the following account which he gives of
the manner which he took to impress upon his
infant mind the truth of the existence of a deity
will no doubt be acceptable to the reader.

"He had reached his fifth or sixth year, knew
the alphabet: and could read a little, but had re-
ceived no particular information with respect to
the author of his being, because I thought he
could not yet understand such information, and
because I had learned, from my own experience,
that to be made to repeat words not understood,
is extremely detrimental to the faculties of a
young mind. In a corner of a little garden, with-
out informing any person of the circumstance,
I wrote in the mould, with my finger, the three
initial letters of his name, and sowing garden
cresses in the furrows, covered up the seed and
smoothed the ground. Ten days after he came
running up to me, and with astonishment in his
countenance told me that his name was growing
in the garden. I smiled at the report, and seem-
ed inclined to disregard it, but he insisted on
my going to see what had happened. 'Yes,' said
I, carelessly, 'I see it is so, but there is nothing
in this worth notice, it is mere chance,' and I
went away. He followed me, and taking hold
of my coat said with some earnestness, it could
not be mere chance for that somebody must have
contrived matters so as to produce it. 'So you
think,' I said, 'that what appears so regular as
the letters of your name. cannot be by chance?'
'Yes,' said he with firmness, 'I think so.' Look
at yourself,' I replied, 'and consider your
hands and fingers, your legs and feet and other

limbs, are they not regular in their appearance
and useful to you?' He said they were. 'Come
you not hither,' said I, 'by chance?' 'No, the
cannot be,' he answered, 'something must have
made me.' 'And who is that something?' I
asked, he said he did not know. I had not
gained the point I had aimed at, and saw that
his reason taught him, though he could not ex-
press it, that what begins to be must have a
cause, and that what is formed with regularity
must have an intelligent cause. I therefore
told him the name of the Great being who made
him, and all the world, concerning whose ador-
able nature I gave him such information as I
thought he could in some measure comprehend.
The lesson affected him greatly, and he never
forgot either it, or the circumstances which in-
troduced it."

NATURAL HISTORY.

MICROSCOPIC OBSERVATIONS.

Nature is the same in the smallest objects as
in those of the greatest magnitude, and displays
as much order and harmony in the structure of
the elephant as in the production of the mite.
The only difference consists in this, that the
weakness of our sight prevents us from pene-
trating into the nature and organization of the
most diminutive bodies, and that many things,
concealed from the naked eye, cannot be dis-
covered but by other means. The microscope
exhibits to us a new world, both of vegetables
and animals; it shows that even such bodies as
are invisible to the naked eye must be composed
of various parts, and have extension and a pec-
uliar figure. Let us now, for the glorification
of the Creator, produce some examples of his
wonders on a small scale.

Every grain of sand appears round, when ex-
amined with the naked eye, but by the aid of
a microscope we can discover that each differs
from the others both in figure and in size. One
is perfectly spherical, another square, a third
conical; but the greatest number are of an ir-
regular figure. The most astonishing circum-
stance is, that, by the aid of a glass which mag-
nifies a million times, we discover in a grain of
sand a new world of insects, for the cavities are
found to be the dwelling places of those crea-
tures. A species of diminutive animals, called
mites, is found in cheese. To the naked eye
they appear like specks; but the microscope
proves that they are insects of a very singular
figure. They have not only eyes, mouth, and
legs, but also transparent bodies, provided with
long hair, like bristles—in the vegetable king-
dom, the mould which generally collects on damp
bodies exhibits the resemblance of a thick for-
est of trees and plants. The branches, leaves,
blossom, and fruit may be clearly distinguished.
The flowers have long, white, transparent stems:
before they open, they appear like small green
buds, which become white when they are blown
As little as we should have expected to discover
this in mould, so little should we imagine that
the dust which covers the wings of the butterfly,