

MEMOIR OF THE

REV. JAMES MACGREGOR.

---

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

The glory of children is their fathers.—Prov. xvii. 6.

THE plans of Providence exhibit one closely connected chain of events, stretching from the beginning of time till the end thereof; and each link in the chain is inseparably united with every other, whether in the all absorbing past or the opening future. Each event, as it occurs, has been the result of a combination of causes acting, it may be, through all the past periods of human existence, and will exert its influence upon the future till "the last syllable of recorded time." Each individual of the mighty multitude who throng our globe, is, both in the circumstances in which he is placed, the characteristics by which he is distinguished, and the part which he acts, the product of a series of causes and events, stretching away back into the past until history and tradition go out in darkness; and he produces a circle in the ocean of time which is ever widening and will continue to extend till the last trumpet shall arrest the course of sublunary things. Humble as may be the sphere which he occupies, unimportant as may seem the events that befall him, his life is yet a stage in a history whose roots reach back to the time when man received his origin from his Creator, his influence during his own time ramifies in all directions, and forming part of the mass of life, ever hastening onward, he aids in swelling the vast tide of human progression toward