

her husband, when he gives Lord Steyne the chastisement that ruins her for life. "When I wrote that sentence," Thackeray remarked subsequently, "I slapped my fist on the table and said, 'That is a stroke of genius.'"

LEWIS MELVILLE.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

**William
Makepeace
Thackeray**
see frontispiece

**Richmond
Thackeray,
Father of the
Novelist**
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**Thackeray at the
age of three, with
his father and
mother**
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**The Charterhouse
in the time of
Thackeray**
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**Thackeray, from
the replica of a
plaster cast by
J. Deville**
see page 4

William Makepeace Thackeray, the only child of Richard and Anne Thackeray, was born at Calcutta on July 18th, 1811. He was descended from Yorkshire yeomen who for several generations had been settled at Hampsthwaite, in the West Riding. In 1766 his grandfather, likewise named William Makepeace Thackeray, sailed for India at the age of seventeen, to enter the service of the East India Company. Under Cartier, the predecessor of Warren Hastings as Governor of Bengal, his promotion was very rapid. In 1776 he married Amelia Richmond, and the same year returned to England. His fourth son, Richmond Thackeray, father of the novelist, went to India in 1798 also in the service of the Company. In 1807 he became Secretary to the Board of Revenue at Calcutta, and undoubtedly possessed brilliant gifts for administration and public work. He married on October 13th, 1810, the reigning beauty of Calcutta, Anne, daughter of John Harman Becher. The painting by Chinnery, executed in 1814, gives a glimpse of the Thackerays at the time when their son had reached the age of three years. He is drawn perched on a large pile of books, with his arms round his mother's neck, his father stiffly seated in a chair close by.

Richmond Thackeray was at this time Collector of the district called the Twenty-four Pergunnahs. Two years later he died, and in 1817 his son was sent to England to be educated, and was placed in the charge of his aunt Mrs. Ritchie, who first sent him to a school in Hampshire, and then to the establishment of Dr. Turner at Chiswick. About 1818 Mrs. Richmond Thackeray married a second time, and in 1821 returned to England with her husband, Major Carmichael Smyth, and settled at Addiscombe. The following year Thackeray was sent to the Charterhouse, where he remained until 1828. This famous school figured largely in his writings as "Greyfriars." It was here that Colonel Newcome and Clive, Pendenmis, George Osborne, Philip Firmin, and Rawdon Crawley were educated. Charterhouse was the scene of Thackeray's fight with Venables, in which he sustained the unfortunate accident to his nose that caused a permanent disfigurement in his otherwise handsome countenance. Evidence of this is noticeable in the plaster cast executed by J. Deville, which represents Thackeray at the age of eleven.