

attached to his physician's daughter. His affection for her, we are told, was such as would be natural to expect of a great benefactor of mankind, and it ended in a most happy matrimonial union. Shortly after his marriage he resumed his literary labors.

Of his early productions, the first was his "*Vindication of Natural Society*," which appeared in 1756, and a little later came his "*Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful*." The former is an ironical imitation of Lord Bolingbroke's style, and was so perfect in its imitation that the majority of readers were led to believe it to be a genuine production of this famous infidel Lord. For this reason it failed to have the effect desired by its author. In his other work on the "*Sublime and Beautiful*," though he made some great errors, he was more successful than in the former. All the great critics of the day lauded this attempt, and even his father, who had been disappointed and displeased with him on account of his having abandoned the study of law, was so delighted with this work that he sent him a present of £100. A couple of years later we find our young aspirant to literary fame engaged in a new work—the "*Annual Register*." It was somewhat previous to this that he first manifested his great interest in colonial affairs, and gave proof of his deep study of American matters, by the publication of a work entitled "*Sketches of American History*." Thus early in this great man's life do we find traces of his friendship for America.

These productions attracted the attention of some of the leading public men of the time and opened for their author the way to the political arena. In 1761 he was sent to Ireland as private Secretary to "Single speech" Hamilton. This situation, though bringing in a handsome remuneration of £300 per annum, was soon abandoned on account of its being inconsistent with his personal independence. He returned to London and there made many new and influential friends; among them were the Marquis of Rockingham and Lord Verney. The former on becoming Prime Minister in 1765, appointed Burke his private Secretary. Lord Verney on the other hand, used his influence to secure for him a seat in parliament. The future great orator and statesman, first sat

in parliament as the representative for Wendover. He was not long a member of the House of Commons before he began to attract great attention. He came forward as a gallant defender of the oppressed, and his first speech, like his last, and all his efforts, was in behalf of those who were most in need of a friend. He on this occasion addressed parliament on American affairs, and this speech won from friends and foes alike most favorable comments. His influence was soon felt, and the Rockingham Ministry, acting on his advice, repealed the Stamp Act. But this ministry shortly afterwards resigned and was succeeded by that of Pitt. This gave occasion for his "*Short Account of a Late Short Administration*."

When the debate on the freedom of the press opened, he took a very prominent part, and rendered valuable assistance to those endeavoring to curtail the power of the crown. In 1774 he was chosen to represent Bristol. During this term he gave offence to many of his supporters by the stand he took on the Irish Trade Acts and other bills. This, in the end, proved a new source of glory rather than a detriment to the great man. It occasioned one of his greatest speeches, which made more manifest than ever to the world, his sterling qualities. He boldly, and for the first time in the history of England, asserted the independence of representatives in parliament and defined their duties. He spoke too on the repeal of the duty on tea in America. "This speech," says a critic, "was the greatest to which an assembly had ever listened, replete with philosophy and adorned with gorgeous diction." Burke was now by all acknowledged the first orator of the realm. The cause of the colonies again and again called forth the thunder of his eloquence, till the ruinous policy of the government ended in the overthrow of British authority in America, and rendered futile all further discourse on this subject.

In 1783 the Rockingham ministry was again returned to power, and Burke, under his old leader, received the office of paymaster-general, and occupied a seat at the council-board. As paymaster-general, we are told, he was most scrupulous in the performance of his duties, and would, no doubt, even in our own days, afford an