

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF SAMUEL DREW; M. A.

[FOR THE H. M. M.]

Among the most remarkable literary characters of the present age, Samuel Drew, M. A., Editor of the Imperial Magazine, may be justly ranked. This excellent man and good writer, was born at St. Austell, a country town in the county of Cornwall, England, March 3d, 1765. His parents were poor, but of respectable character; and, although, as he informs us, they were not ignorant of the importance of education, their means were not sufficient to afford him any, except what he received at a common reading school: which was merely a knowledge of his letters.

Agreeable to the great diversity of human affairs, while young Drew beheld many of his acquaintance brought up in affluence, and favoured with a liberal education, he had himself to taste of the original curse, and "by the sweat of his brow to eat bread." At the age of seven years, he was put to work, to assist in providing the necessaries of life, and when little above ten, he was bound apprentice, to learn the trade of shoemaking. During the period of his apprenticeship, nothing of importance connected with his history transpired. In reading he made some improvement, and learned to write his own name, not without difficulty.

In the course of time, he accidentally met with "Locke on the human understanding," and was greatly astonished at the extraordinary powers of that writer; from this event, he formed a determination to pursue useful knowledge, nor was his resolution vain, for while he attended diligently to his calling in life, he embraced every opportunity to improve his mind. It should be recollected, that, in those days, facilities for improvement were not