

MEMOIR OF MRS. GRANT.

Mrs. Anne Grant, commonly styled of Laggan, to distinguish her from her friend and contemporary Mrs. Grant of Carron,¹ was born at Glasgow, February 21, 1755. Her father, Duncan MacVicar, who is described as a plain, brave, pious man, was an officer in a Highland regiment, her mother a descendant of the ancient family of Stewart of Invernahyle, in Argyllshire. "The only particular," writes Mrs. Grant, "of my infantine history that I remember to have heard related, took place in the streets of Glasgow, and I mention it to show at what an early age children observe and remember. My mother lived in the eastern extremity of the town: I suppose she often spoke to others, though not to me, of my father being in America, and might very probably point westward when describing in what direction the *New World* lay to some one who knew still less than myself of geography. Be that as it may, I certainly set off one Sunday evening when I was at most two years and eight months old, and walked deliberately by myself very nearly a mile to the western extremity of the Trogate; how much further I might have gone is not known. A lady looking out of a window saw with some surprise a child neatly dressed in white, with bare head and arms, walking alone and unattended in the middle of the street. She sent for me: and asked me where I came from. I said 'mamma's house;' I could tell no more. She next questioned me where I was going. I answered in my imperfect manner that I was going to America to seek papa."²

Soon after this event, Mrs. MacVicar and her daughter sailed for the *New World* and settled at Claverack on the Hudson, where her husband was stationed with a party of Highlanders. Here Anne was taught to read by her mother, and learned to speak Dutch. An intelligent sergeant of the company made her a proficient in writing, and observing her eager thirst for knowledge presented his precocious little pupil with an appropriate soldier's gift—even the poem of Wallace by the patriotic Scottish Homer, Blind Harry. The quaint and almost forgotten language in which this work is written, as well

¹ Author of *Roy's Wife of Aldivalloch*.

² *Mrs. G.'s Memoirs and Correspondence*, London, 1844.