



MOORE AND SCOTT IN THE RHYMERS' GLEN.

FOOTPRINTS OF FAMOUS MEN.

DESIGNED AS

INCITEMENTS TO INTELLECTUAL INDUSTRY.

By JOHN G. EDGAR,

AUTHOR OF "THE BOYHOOD OF GREAT MEN."

The heights by great men reached and kept,
Were not attained by sudden flight,
But they, while their companions slept,
Were toiling upward in the night.

LONGFELLOW.

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CONTENTS.

I.—MEN OF ACTION.

	PAGE
WASHINGTON.....	9
BURKE.....	44
NECKER.....	68
PITT.....	82
LORD ERSKINE.....	103
LORD COLLINGWOOD.....	123
LORD TEIGNMOUTH.....	143

"Magna etiam illa laus, et admirabilis videri solet, tulisse casus sapienter adversos, non fractum esse fortunâ, retinuisse in rebus asperis dignitatem."

CICERO *de Orat.*

II.—MEN OF LETTERS.

DEAN MILNER.....	159
DAVID HUME.....	186
SOUTHEY.....	200
MOORE.....	226

III.—ARTISTS.

SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS.....	243
SIR FRANCIS CHANTREY.....	272
SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN.....	280

IV.—MEN OF SCIENCE.

	PAGE
DR. WILLIAM HUNTER	305
BLACK	324
BRINDLEY	332
WATT	340
ADAM SMITH	348

LIST OF PLATES.

MOORE AND SCOTT IN THE RHYMER'S GLEN	<i>Frontis.</i>
YOUNG WASHINGTON'S MILITARY ASPIRATIONS ..	Page 11
BURKE READING TO HIS MOTHER	46
ERSKINE'S FIRST SUCCESSSES	116
COLLINGWOOD'S JUVENILE GENEROSITY	139
MILNER RESCUED FROM THE LOOM ..	166
SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS AT BLenheim	267
CHANTREY'S EARLY STUDIES	277

FOOTPRINTS OF FAMOUS MEN.

WASHINGTON.

THE name, which this truly great and good man rendered for ever illustrious and venerable, is of thoroughly English origin, and was assumed, from a manor in the county of Durham, by one of the proprietors, during the dynasty of the Plantagenets. The family continued, for successive centuries, to produce men distinguished in their day and generation as knights, divines, lawyers, and agriculturists; and during the Protectorate two of its cadets, more adventurous than their predecessors, fared forth from a hereditary grange in Northamptonshire, took shipping for Virginia, sailed into the bay of Chesapeake, and settled, in the midst of silk grass and wild fruit, under the shade of the tall, bulky trees on the banks of the Potomac.

The grandson of one of these emigrants, a colonist of industry, enterprise, and repute, flourished in the earlier part of the eighteenth century. He seems to have been fully alive to the inconvenience, and steelled against the temptations of celibacy; for he was twice

married, and blessed with several children, of whom George Washington—the eldest son by the second wife—was born on the 22d of February, 1732. Shortly after this joyous event, the worthy and prosperous planter removed to an estate he possessed in Stafford county; and there, on the east side of the Rappahannoe river, the childhood of the future general and statesman was passed. He soon gave indications of a natural disposition to lead and govern; and showed an innate inclination for military pursuits and athletic exercises. When at play, he took infinite delight in forming his youthful comrades into companies, which he drilled, marched, and paraded with due order and formality. Sometimes they were divided into two armies, and fought mimic battles—he acting as captain-general of one party. Then, as in maturer years, he was much given to such feats as running, leaping, wrestling, throwing bars, and others of a similar character. Moreover, he was held in great respect by his more volatile companions, who looked up to him as an extraordinary lad; and thus he was often privileged to arbitrate on and settle their casual disputes, always, it is stated, to the satisfaction of the parties concerned.

It has been remarked that, in general, persons attain with credit, and fill with dignity, the positions which might have been anticipated from their juvenile indications. Some, indeed, afterward display talents of which, in their first stages, they gave no sign,



YOUNG WASHINGTON'S MILITARY ASPIRATIONS.