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ENGLISH TRAITS

BEING VOLUME V.

OF

EMERSON'S COMPLETE WORKS



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182

ENGLISH TRAITS

BY

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

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CONTENTS.

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. FIRST VISIT TO ENGLAND	7
II. VOYAGE TO ENGLAND	28
III. LAND	37
IV. RACE	47
V. ABILITY	75
VI. MANNERS	101
VII. TRUTH	114
VIII. CHARACTER	124
IX. COCKAYNE	140
X. WEALTH	149
XI. ARISTOCRACY	166
XII. UNIVERSITIES	191
XIII. RELIGION	205
XIV. LITERATURE	221
XV. THE "TIMES,"	247
XVI. STONEHENGE	259
XVII. PERSONAL	276
XVIII. RESULT	283
XIX. SPEECH AT MANCHESTER	292

ENGLISH TRAITS.



CHAPTER I.

FIRST VISIT TO ENGLAND.

I HAVE been twice in England. In 1833, on my return from a short tour in Sicily, Italy and France, I crossed from Boulogne and landed in London at the Tower stairs. It was a dark Sunday morning; there were few people in the streets, and I remember the pleasure of that first walk on English ground, with my companion, an American artist, from the Tower up through Cheapside and the Strand to a house in Russell Square, whither we had been recommended to good chambers. For the first time for many months we were forced to check the saucy habit of travellers' criticism, as we could no longer speak aloud in the streets without being understood. The shop-signs spoke our language; our country names were on the door-plates, and the public and private buildings wore a more native and wonted front.

Like most young men at that time, I was much indebted to the men of Edinburgh and of the Edin-