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MEMOIRS

OF

THE LIFE

OF

SIR WALTER SCOTT, BART.

BYJ. G. LOCKHART.

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MEMOIRS

OF THE

LIFE OF SIR WALTER SCOTT.

CHAPTER I.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EDINBURGH REVIEW—PROGRESS
OF THE TRISTREM—AND OF THE LAY OF THE LAST
MINSTREL—VISIT OF WORDSWORTH—PUBLICATION OF
“SIR TRISTREM.”—1803-1804.

SHORTLY after the complete “Minstrelsy” issued from the press, Scott made his first appearance as a reviewer. The Edinburgh Review had been commenced in October, 1802, under the superintendence of the Rev. Sidney Smith, with whom, during his short residence in Scotland, he had lived on terms of great kindness and familiarity. Mr. Smith soon resigned the editorship to Mr. Jeffrey, who had by this time been for several years among the most valued of Scott’s friends and companions at the bar ; and, the new journal being far from committing itself to violent politics at the outset, he appreciated the brilliant talents regularly engaged in it far too highly, not to be well pleased with the opportunity of occasionally exercising his pen in its service. His first contribution was, I believe, an article on Southey’s Amadis of Gaul, included in the number for October, 1803. Another, on Sibbald’s Chronicle of Scottish Poetry, appeared in the same number:—a third, on Godwin’s Life of Chaucer ; a fourth, on Ellis’s Specimens of Ancient Eng-