

THE LIFE AND LETTERS
OF
MADAME BONAPARTE.

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PREFACE.

THE long, eventful, and romantic career of Madame Bonaparte made her one of the most famous women of the country. Her remarkable history covers a period of ninety-four years. Born four years before the organization of the United States government by the original Thirteen States, she lived to see the Union composed of thirty-eight States, with a population of nearly fifty millions. At the time of her birth, Baltimore was a small town of little more than four thousand inhabitants ; she lived to see it a large city of little less than four hundred thousand. Born the daughter of a Baltimore merchant, Elizabeth Patterson became, by her marriage with Jerome Bonaparte, the sister-in-law of the Emperor Napoleon and the half-dozen kings and queens whom the French Cæsar placed upon the thrones of Europe. In all respects the equal, and in some the superior of