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English Men of Letters

EDITED BY JOHN MORLEY

H U M E



1764
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BY
PROFESSOR HUXLEY



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RICHARD CLAY & SONS,
BREAD STREET HILL, LONDON, E.C.
And at Bungay, Suffolk.

FIFTEENTH THOUSAND.

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PART I.

HUME'S LIFE.

CHAPTER I.

EARLY LIFE : LITERARY AND POLITICAL WRITINGS.

DAVID HUME was born in Edinburgh on the 26th of April (O.S.), 1711. His parents were then residing in the parish of the Tron church, apparently on a visit to the Scottish capital, as the small estate which his father Joseph Hume, or Home, inherited, lay in Berwickshire, on the banks of the Whitadder or Whitewater, a few miles from the border, and within sight of English ground. The paternal mansion was little more than a very modest farmhouse,¹ and the property derived its name

¹ A picture of the house, taken from Drummond's *History of Noble British Families*, is to be seen in Chambers's *Book of Days* (April 26th); and if, as Drummond says, "It is a favourable specimen of the best Scotch lairds' houses," all that can be said is that the worst Scotch lairds must have been poorly lodged indeed.