

MEMOIRS

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OF

THE LIFE

OF

SIR WALTER SCOTT, BART.

BY

J. G. LOCKHART.

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CONTENTS

OF

THE THIRD VOLUME.

CHAPTER I.

The Poem of Rokeby begun—Correspondence with Mr. Morritt—Death of Henry Duke of Buccleuch—George Ellis—John Wilson—Apprentices of Edinburgh—Scott's "Nicknackatories"—Letter to Miss Baillie on the Publication of <i>Childe Harold</i> —Correspondence with Lord Byron—1811-1812,.....	Page. 1
---	------------

CHAPTER II.

The "Flitting" to Abbotsford—Plantations—George Thomson—Rokeby and Triermain in progress—Excursion to Flodden—Bishop Auckland—And Rokeby Park—Correspondence with Crabbe—Life of Patrick Carey, &c.—Publication of <i>Rokeby</i> —And of the <i>Bridal of Triermain</i> —1812-1813,.....	20
--	----

CHAPTER III.

Affairs of John Ballantyne and Co.—Causes of their Derangement—Letters of Scott to his Partners—Negotiation for Relief with Messrs. Constable—New Purchase of Land at Abbotsford—Embarrassments continued—John Ballantyne's Expresses—Drumlanrig—Penrith, &c.—Scott's Meeting with the Marquis of Abercorn at Longtown—His Application to the Duke of Buccleuch—Offer of the Poet-Laureateship—Considered—And Declined—Address of the City of Edinburgh to the Prince Regent—Its Reception—Civic Honors conferred on Scott—Question of Taxation on Literary Income—Letters to Mr. Morritt—Mr. Southey—Mr. Richardson—Mr. Crabbe—Miss Baillie—And Lord Byron—1813,..	58
---	----

CHAPTER IV.

Insanity of Henry Weber—Letters on the Abdication of Napoleon, &c.—Publication of Scott's Life and Edition of Swift—Essays for the Supplement to the <i>Encyclopædia Britannica</i> —Completion and Publication of <i>Waverley</i> —1814,.....	95
--	----

CHAPTER V.

Voyage to the Shetland Isles, &c.—Scott's Diary kept on board the Light-house Yacht—July and August—1814,.....	113
--	-----

CHAPTER VI.

Diary on board the Light-house Yacht continued—The Orkneys—Kirkwall—Hoy—The Standing Stones of Stennis, &c.—August, 1814,.....	143
--	-----

CHAPTER VII.

	Page.
Diary continued—Stromness—Bessy Millie's Charm—Cape Wrath—Cave of Smowe—The Hebrides—Scalpa, &c.—1814,.....	154

CHAPTER VIII.

Diary continued—Isle of Harris—Monuments of the Chiefs of Macleod—Isle of Skye—Dunvegan Castle—Loch Corriskin—Macallister's Cave—1814,.....	166
---	-----

CHAPTER IX.

Diary continued—Cave of Egg—Iona—Staffa—Dunstaffnage—Dunluce Castle—Giants' Causeway—Isle of Arran, &c.—Diary concluded—August—September, 1814,	176
---	-----

CHAPTER X.

Letter in Verse from Zetland and Orkney—Death of the Duchess of Buccleuch—Correspondence with the Duke—Atrive Lake—Negotiation concerning the Lord of the Isles completed—Success of Waverley—Contemporaneous Criticisms on the Novel—Letters to Scott from Mr. Morritt—Mr. Lewis—And Miss Maclean Clephane—Letter from James Ballantyne to Miss Edgeworth—1814,.....	200
---	-----

CHAPTER XI.

Progress of the Lord of the Isles—Correspondence with Mr. Joseph Train—Rapid completion of the Lord of the Isles—"Six Weeks at Christmas"—"Refreshing the Machine"—Publication of the Poem—And of Guy Mannering—Letters to Morritt—Terry—And John Ballantyne—Anecdotes by James Ballantyne—Visit to London—Meeting with Lord Byron—Dinners at Carlton House—1814-1815,.....	219
---	-----

CHAPTER XII.

Battle of Waterloo—Letter of Sir Charles Bell—Visit to the Continent—Waterloo—Letters from Brussels and Paris—Anecdotes of Scott at Paris—The Duke of Wellington—The Emperor Alexander—Blucher—Platoſſi—Party at Ermenonville, &c.—London—Parting with Lord Byron—Scott's Birmingham Knife—Return to Abbotsford—Anecdotes by Mr. Skene and James Ballantyne—Notes on "The Field of Waterloo"—1815,.....	252
---	-----

CHAPTER XIII.

Poem of the Field of Waterloo published—Revision of Paul's Letters, &c.—Quarrel and Reconciliation with Hogg—Football Match at Carterhaugh—Songs on the Banner of Buccleuch—Dinner at Bowhill—Design for a Piece of Plate to the Sutors of Selkirk—Letters to the Duke of Buccleuch—Joanna Baillie—And Mr. Morritt—1815,.....	282
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LIFE OF SIR WALTER SCOTT.

CHAPTER I.

THE POEM OF ROKEBY BEGUN—CORRESPONDENCE WITH MR. MORRITT—DEATH OF HENRY DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH—GEORGE ELLIS—JOHN WILSON—APPRENTICES OF EDINBURGH—SCOTT'S "NICK-NACKATORIES"—LETTER TO MISS BAILLIE ON THE PUBLICATION OF CHILDE HAROLD—CORRESPONDENCE WITH LORD BYRON.—1811-1812.

OF the £4000 which Scott paid for the original farm of Abbotsford, he borrowed one half from his eldest brother, Major John Scott; the other moiety was raised by the Ballantynes, and advanced on the security of the as yet unwritten, though long-meditated poem of Rokeby. He immediately, I believe by Terry's counsel, requested Mr. Stark of Edinburgh, an architect of whose talents he always spoke warmly, to give him a design for an ornamental cottage in the style of the old English vicarage-house. But before this could be done, Mr. Stark died; and Scott's letters will show how, in the sequel, his building plans, checked for a season by this occurrence, gradually expanded,—until twelve years afterwards the site was occupied not by a cottage, but a castle.

His first notions are sketched as follows, in a letter addressed to Mr. Morritt very shortly after the purchase.