



BY

MISS C. L. BRIGHTWELL,

AUTHOR OF "ROMANTIC INCIDENTS IN THE LIVES OF NATURALISTS
AND CELEBRATED TRAVELLERS," ETC.



"IN ALL LABOUR THERE IS PROFIT."—*Solomon.*

LONDON:

T. NELSON AND SONS, PATERNOSTER ROW;
Edinburgh; and New York.

1863.



Preface.

IT cannot be otherwise than instructive for the young to study the life-histories of those who have distinguished themselves among their fellows, and attained the objects to which they have aspired in life.

Many obstacles must be overcome, and, in not a few cases, serious hindrances encountered by all who ardently long to acquire knowledge and to secure the prizes which are presented to the ambition of enterprising minds. There can, indeed, be no question that, from every profession, examples may be brought in which talent and industry have not secured success. But, generally speaking, the axiom of the Wise Man holds good, "The hand of the diligent maketh rich;" and the long labour of preparatory study, careful observation, and assiduous, conscientious effort, are crowned with the deserved reward.

In the biographical sketches here presented, the reader will find examples of those who have attained

celebrity in the world by dint of industry and self-denial, in some instances coupled with an amount of natural genius not given to all. To *all* there is given this encouragement: that if they cultivate, with care and self-denial, the talents God has given them, they will have the approbation of their own consciences and the approval of those whose good opinion is worth having.

The important services rendered to general literature and science by some of the individuals mentioned in this little book, awaken feelings of satisfaction and pride; and the writer earnestly desires that her readers—and may their name be Legion!—may distinguish themselves some day for intellectual zeal and power, and deserve to be remembered for moral dignity of character, piety to God, and benevolence to man.





Contents.

	Page
John Ludwig, the Self-taught Saxon Peasant	9
Peter Newland	20
Sir William Jones	26
Cervantes	42
Tycho Brahe	62
Tom Britton, the Musical Small-Coal Man	82
Giovanni Battista Belzoni	90
Dr. Alexander Murray	108
Benjamin Franklin	122
William Hutton	142
Joseph and Stephen Montgolfier	158
Phillip Matthew Hahn	173
Robert Gooch	181
Christian Gottlob Heyne, Professor of Eloquence in the University of Gottingen	194
John Bacon	209
Louis Holberg	221
William Gifford	240
James Ferguson	258
Sir Robert Strange	274





ANNALS OF INDUSTRY AND GENIUS.

—◆—

John Ludwig,

THE SELF-TAUGHT SAXON PEASANT.

ABOUT the year 1753, one of the Commissioners of Excise in Saxony, named Hoffman, in the discharge of his duties, met with a somewhat remarkable individual. It was then the custom to appoint a peasant in each village to receive the excise of the place, and, as M. Hoffman was auditing the accounts of some of these people in the villages around Dresden, he was told that one of them, named John Ludwig, was a strange man, who, though very poor and with a family, was continually reading books, and frequently stood a great part of the night at his door, gazing up at the stars.

This account raised the commissioner's curiosity, and he desired that the man should be brought before him, which was accordingly done. The first impression produced by the appearance of the prodigy was