

**THACKERAY THE HUMOURIST AND
THE MAN OF LETTERS. THE STORY OF
HIS LIFE AND LITERARY LABOURS,
INCLUDING A SELECTION FROM HIS
CHARACTERISTIC SPEECHES**

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Thackeray the humourist and the man of letters. The story of his life and literary labours, including a selection from his characteristic speeches by Theodore Taylor & Charles Dickens & Anthony Trollope

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THEODORE TAYLOR & CHARLES DICKENS & ANTHONY TROLLOPE

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» The Happiest moment of my life »

Seaton

THACKERAY

THE
HUMOURIST AND THE MAN OF LETTERS.

The Story

OF HIS

LIFE AND LITERARY LABOURS,

INCLUDING

*A SELECTION FROM HIS CHARACTERISTIC SPEECHES, NOW FOR
THE FIRST TIME GATHERED TOGETHER.*

BY THEODORE TAYLOR, Esq.,

Membre de la Société des Gens de Lettres.

TO WHICH IS ADDED

IN MEMORIAM—BY CHARLES DICKENS,

AND

A SKETCH, BY ANTHONY TROLLOPE.

WITH PORTRAIT AND ILLUSTRATIONS.



NEW YORK:
D. APPLETON AND COMPANY,
438 & 445 BROADWAY.
1864.



WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY.

A RECENT PHOTOGRAPH BY ERNEST EDWARDS, R.A.



HIS RESIDENCE IN KENSINGTON PALACE GARDENS,

Built after a favourite design in red brick, and similar in style to Old Kensington Palace close by, which was finished in the reign of Queen Anne.



MR. THACKERAY AND THE AGE OF QUEEN ANNE.

(An imaginary sketch made at the Garrick Club many years ago. This portrait of Mr. Thackeray as he used to appear, 12 or 15 years since, is remarkable for its singular excellence, although the hair is represented slightly different from its appearance in later years.)



THE THACKERAY ARMS.

(The professional pen and pencil are made to take the place of a Falcon, the proper family crest; and the favourite spectacles, so generally observed in Mr. Thackeray's early sketches, do service as the motto.)

FAC-SIMILE OF M^r THACKERAY'S HAND-WRITING.

George IV.

He never acted well, by man or woman,
And was as false to his mistress as to his wife.
He deserted his friends and his principles,
He was so ignorant he could scarcely spell;
But he had skill in cutting out coats,
And an undeniable taste for cookery.
He built the palace of Brighton and of Buckingham,
And for these qualities and proofs of genius,
An admiring aristocracy
Christen'd him the "fast gentleman in Europe!"
Friends, respect the king whose statue is here,
And the generous aristocracy who admired him.

Wm Thackeray

P R E F A C E .

THE following memoir of the late MR. THACKERAY may, perhaps, be acceptable as filling an intermediate place between the newspaper or review article and the more elaborate biography which may be expected in due course. The writer had some peculiar means of acquiring information for the purpose of his sketch, and to this he has added such particulars as have been already made public in English and foreign publications and other scattered sources. The common complaints against memoirs of this necessary haste and incomplete character will not be repeated by those who are accustomed to test questions in morals by the principles which underlie them. That there is nothing necessarily indelicate or improper, in the desire of the public to obtain some personal knowledge of the great and good who have just passed away, is assumed by every daily, weekly, and quarterly journal which on occasions of this kind furnish their readers with such details as they are able to obtain, and which, in no case, confine themselves strictly to the public career of the deceased.

Although some facts in the private life of Mr. Thackeray will be found to be touched upon in these pages, the writer is not conscious of having written a line which could give pain to others.

The writer cannot conclude without acknowledging the kind assistance he has received in furnishing anecdotes and other particulars from Mr. Kinglake, the brilliant historian; Mons. Lacroix; Mr. George Cruikshank, the eminent artist; Mr. Goodlake, Lady Bulwer Lytton, Mr. Moy Thomas, Mr. Blanchard, Mr. George Linley, and others whose names the author is not permitted to mention.

T. T. T.

GRAND HÔTEL LOUYVS,
Rue Richelieu, Paris.
25 Jan. 1864.