

**MEMORIAL OF  
JOHN ALLAN**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649193097

Memorial of John Allan by Evert A. Duyckinck

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**EVERT A. DUYCKINCK**

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JOHN ALLAN**





THE END

*John Allan*

MEMORIAL

OF

JOHN ALLAN.

*Ever Augustus S. Reynolds.*




PRINTED FOR THE BRADFORD CLUB.

NEW YORK:

1864.

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Entered according to an Act of Congress, in the year 1864,  
By John B. Moreau,

FOR THE BRADFORD CLUB,  
in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States  
for the Southern District of New York.

TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY COPIES PRINTED.

No. 1127.



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Thus our time may we pass with rare books and rare friends,  
Growing wiser and better till life itself ends:  
And may those who delight not in black letter lore,  
By some obsolete act be sent far from our shore.

"National Madness." A Song for the Lovers  
of Curious and Rare Books, to the tune of  
Liberty Hall, in Mr. Allan's Collection.

## MEMORIAL.

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The following memorial has been prepared in compliance with the wishes of a few friends of the late Mr. Allan, members of the BRADFORD CLUB, who desire to preserve some record of his amiable personal qualities and of the refined pursuits by which he was distinguished. There is nothing, indeed, in the account of his life, to challenge a place among the important biographies of these stirring times; and no effort will here be made to place the subject of this sketch, by any exaggeration, in a position abhorrent to his unobtrusive character. The whole story is simply this. He was a kind hearted man, fond of literature and art; plain in his habits, manly in his opinions: he enjoyed a well deserved reputation for probity and honor, and at his death left a valuable collection of rare books, engravings and other curiosities, which he had gathered about him, the amusement and solace of a long life and an unfailing resource to his companions, and which, as they are now dispersed and have become the ornaments of many private libraries, bear witness to the tastes of

their late owner, and, in a posthumous way, widen the circle of his acquaintance.

John Allan was born in the parish of Kilburnie, Ayrshire, Scotland, on the 26th of February, 1777. His father was a tenant farmer of the district, and the family had occupied the acres from which he gained his subsistence for more than a century. They preserved the industry and virtues which have ever marked the better classes of the Scottish cultivators of the soil; among which, we may be sure, a proper attention to intellectual discipline was not neglected. John Allan reaped the benefit of these home influences in the promotion of a manly character, while he received a sound elementary education, including instruction in Latin at a neighboring grammar school. He was always in pursuit of knowledge, and the incident is remembered in his family of his devoting the small savings from his pocket allowance, his "sugar money," in his childhood, to subscription to a newspaper.

Being the eldest of the family, he was naturally looked to for assistance in the work on the farm; but for this species of toil, and, indeed, for hard labor of any kind, he seems to have had no great inclination. When any unusual effort was required he was often out of the way; his tastes ran in a different direction; a book was in his boyhood more welcome to him than the plough, and he was already looking forward to a career in which he might gain his livelihood in some less exacting vocation. At the age of seventeen he