THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF THOMAS ALLEN, IN THREE VOLUMES, VOL. I

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The Autobiography of Thomas Allen, in Three Volumes, Vol. I by Arthur Montagu Brookfield

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ARTHUR MONTAGU BROOKFIELD

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THOMAS ALLEN

BY THE

AUTHOR OF 'POST MORTEM'

IN THREE VOLUMES

VOL. I.



WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS EDINBURGH AND LONDON MDCCCLXXXII

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PREFACE.

SUCH as my life has actually been, so I propose to record it. It is not for me, in this place, to point out particulars in which the thousands who have professed to do the same thing have failed. Nevertheless, I intend to profit rather by the warnings which their real shortcomings furnish, than by the examples which their apparent successes invite; and amongst the faults which this work must contain, I believe that wilful exaggeration and timid suppression will not be found. The general taste in the matter of literature has of late become

accustomed to some very strange models; and it is certainly curious that those who, in the real business of life, persistently discard all false romance, not only tolerate, but eagerly seek it, in the field of fancy. It now remains to be proved whether the maxim still holds good, "that the true private history of the humblest individual is attractive, as well as instructive, to the highest;" or whether efforts to show what we ought to be—or rather what we ought not to be—are now preferred to descriptions of what we are.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

OF

THOMAS ALLEN.

CHAPTER I.

My birth took place one wet evening in June 1843, at Hare Place, the seat of my father, in one of the home counties. Although on first coming into the world I was in very kind hands, it might have seemed otherwise; for I was flogged with the corner of a wet towel, and ducked in brandy, almost directly I had made my appearance. My parents, Mr and Mrs Allen, decided VOL. I.