

**SIR JOSEPH BANKS AND THE  
ROYAL SOCIETY. A POPULAR  
BIOGRAPHY WITH AN  
HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION AND  
SEQUEL**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649705313

Sir Joseph Banks and the Royal Society. A Popular Biography with an Historical Introduction and Sequel by Anonymous

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LONDON :

JOHN W. PARKER, WEST STRAND.

M.DCCC.XLIV.

## PREFACE.

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THE influence which the **ROYAL SOCIETY OF LONDON** has exerted during the last two hundred years upon science and art, and consequently in a great measure upon the prosperity of this country, must render authentic details respecting its history of much general interest. In the following sketch a few important points are brought into notice, indicative rather of its fortunes and prospects than of its proceedings, for these involve much of the history of nearly every department of science.

By connecting the life of **SIR JOSEPH BANKS** with the **ROYAL SOCIETY** little more is done than to continue the history of that distinguished body. During the long period of forty-one years he was its president, and devoted much of his time and means to the promotion of its interests and those of science generally.

In collecting materials for a notice of the life of this eminent individual a large number of trustworthy authorities have been consulted; and many passages have been selected from the beautiful and eloquent **ELOGE** pronounced on him by the **BARON CUVIER**, which, it is believed, has not hitherto been translated into our language. We are not permitted to doubt the justice and sincerity of praise from such a source, but

would rather admire the generous gratitude which dictated it.

In continuing a notice of the Royal Society after the death of Sir Joseph Banks, it was thought that greater interest would be imparted by using, as far as possible, the language of the distinguished persons who addressed the society on its own affairs. Several passages have therefore been selected from the published *Discourses* of the presidents, and from the *Reports of Committees* appointed by the Society for special purposes.

A brief notice of the various scientific societies now existing, and which may be said to have originated in or sprung from the Royal Society, may not be thought an inappropriate conclusion to this little work.

The works of Wallis, Sprat, Birch, Thomson, and other writers on the Royal Society, are the authorities for many of the following details, when others are not indicated.

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