

ROBERT HALL

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Robert Hall by E. Paxton Hood

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E. PAXTON HOOD

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BY THE

REV. E. PAXTON HOOD,

*Author of "The World of Anecdote," "The Day, the Book, and
the Teacher," "Vignettes of the Great Revival,"
"Villages of the Bible," etc., etc., etc.*

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CHAPTER I.

BIRTH—CHILDHOOD—EARLY STUDIES.

THE readers of Lord Lytton's instructive fiction, "The Caxtons," cannot fail to remember Mr. Caxton's discourse on the "Hygienic Chemistry of Books," in which he winds up his discourse by administering what he calls his medicine, for the mental distresses and sad life-sorrows of his brother and his son. "'Biography,' he said, 'is the medicine here! Roland, you said you would try my prescription—here it is,'—and my father took up a book, and reached it to the Captain.

"My uncle looked over it—*Life of the Reverend Robert Hall*. 'Brother, he was a Dissenter, and, thank Heaven! I am a church-and-state man, to the backbone!'

"'Robert Hall was a brave man, and a true soldier under the Great Commander,' said my father, artfully.

"The Captain mechanically carried his forefinger to his forehead in military fashion, and saluted the book respectfully.

"'I have another copy for you, Pisistratus,' addressing his son,—'that is mine which I have lent Roland. This, which I bought for you to-day, you will keep.'