

**STANTON. A TALE,
IN TWO VOLUMES,
VOL. I**

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Stanton. A Tale, in Two Volumes, Vol. I by D. M. Dunlop

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D. M. DUNLOP

**STANTON. A TALE,
IN TWO VOLUMES,
VOL. I**

STANTON.

A TALE.

BY

D. M. DUNLOP, ESQ.



"Go little book, and, to thy moral true,
From even-handed justice get thy due."

ANONYMOUS.

IN TWO VOLUMES.—VOL. I.

LONDON:
LONGMAN AND CO., PATERNOSTER ROW.
BATH:
G. GODWIN, MILSON STREET.

PRINTED BY H. E. CARRINGTON, KINGSTON BUILDINGS.
1848.

INTRODUCTION.

"WHEN I was a boy," said my uncle—

"Coachman has come for orders, Sir," said a servant, who had just entered the room.—

Gentle reader,—I must inform you that I was my uncle's favourite nephew, and that he was fond of telling a long story. What uncles are not—and what nephews think not the same—favourites, or otherwise? And sometimes, far be it from me to say *often*, of one "*decies repetita*," which, being interpreted for the benefit of the—the ladies—means a tale ten times told. When, therefore, he began, "When I was a boy," and, as a preliminary (for he did so, gentle reader), took off his spectacles, and proceeded, with more than ordinary deliberation, to deposit them in a shagreen case, which he had informed me, on several occasions, had been in his possession for the last thirty years, and had belonged to his great-grandmother (of blessed memory, and

the reigning toast of her day), being morally certain that I knew the old gentleman's story word for word, I leaned back in my chair with apparent attention, and had already occupied myself with (as I supposed) an entirely different range of thought; but the question of the servant reaching me, in the clouds as I was, the deliverance was altogether so unexpected, not to say welcome, as to throw me completely off my guard, and I exclaimed, half aloud, though not very politely, "*Sic me servavit Apollo!*" (Which, for the benefit of the individuals aforesaid, and those who have not been flogged for their inability to construe Horace, means, "Thank Heaven!")

"At two o'clock," said my uncle, and the servant left the room.

The good old man then turned to me with a smile, and, taking me kindly by the hand, "Marmaduke," said he, "it is my intention to send you to Oxford in a few weeks, when you will start into a new existence, as it were, inasmuch as the course of life you will then be compelled to adopt will be widely different from that to which you have been hitherto accustomed. I think it, therefore, my duty, previous to your departure, to give you an insight of the little

world you are about to enter, and, by so doing, to warn you of the dangers of the greater world in which all our lots have been cast ; for though Oxford is, indeed, a world of itself, it is, in truth, but a miniature of that greater world in which, sooner or later, if life be granted, you must play your part. The same friendships, the same feuds, the same jealousies, the same rivalries, the same virtues, the same vices, are alike in both, and make or mar the character of all. I have not sent you to a public school, although your poor father and myself had, as some people call it, the *benefit* of a public education, simply because I do not approve of public schools as at present constituted, inasmuch as, no matter whether the fault lay in the system or in me, I do not consider that my public education was productive of advantage.

You are aware, doubtless, for I have often put writings on this subject before you, that the science of education has given rise to no little controversy. Many advantages are to be derived from a public and many from a private education ; and there are evils, and not a few, in both the systems. You, my dear boy, have been educated at home, and I trust to some purpose ; but the nature of such an education has

necessarily debarred you from associating much with young men of your own age, and you have often mentioned this as a subject of regret; but it will soon cease to cause uneasiness, and I think that before many months have passed you will rejoice in your hitherto comparative seclusion. In useful knowledge, and such as you ought to possess, (for what should young men of your age know beyond what is to be derived from books?) you will find that you are so far from being deficient as to be able to more than compete with your contemporaries, and in good principle and virtuous action you are as strong as your guardian would wish you to be."

The old man here paused for a moment to recover the tone of his voice which faltered considerably from emotion, for he loved me dearly, and then resumed—

"Boys who have gone through the routine of a public school are not found to excel in general knowledge, and, though adepts in Latin and Greek, are singularly ignorant not only of their own but also of all other modern languages. In truth they have been taught rather to despise these accomplishments as the test of effeminacy, the strong arm with moderate, and in too many cases slender, abilities gaining favour in

the eyes of the majority of their companions, (and to whom is not applause at all times gratifying?) while the more gifted with talents, but of weak and delicate constitution and frame, of necessity go to the wall. There are, however, features in the character of those thus educated which go far, in my estimation, to counterbalance the evils inherent in the system. Nothing mean is for a moment tolerated: a liar is scouted, a dishonourable boy shunned, and generosity of hand and heart is the prime characteristic of a public school. The friendships also there formed are, with few, and but few, exceptions, lasting and valuable, and most men, much as they may have regretted time mis-spent, and opportunities thrown away, can bear to look back with pride and with pleasure to their earliest formation. I have now said enough to put you upon your guard; one word more, and I have done. Do not admire a man (for they are all *men* at Oxford) because he outstrips his companions in athletic exercises, nor, on the contrary, despise him on that account. Such recreations conduce to health, and are not incompatible with habits of industry, and a desire for intellectual improvement. I would say the same with regard to those who take no pleasure in such amusements. They are