

**THE LETTERS OF
THE BRITISH SPY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649365548

The letters of the British spy by William Wirt

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

WILLIAM WIRT

**THE LETTERS OF
THE BRITISH SPY**

Works Published by J. & J. Harper.

- AFFECTING SCENES**; being Passages from the Diary of a Physician. 2 vols. 18mo. [Stereotyped.]
- ANASTASIUS**. A Novel. In 2 vols. 12mo.
- YOUTH AND MANHOOD OF CYRIL THORNTON**. A Novel. 2 vols. 12mo. [Stereotyped.]
- THE DUTCHMAN'S FIRESIDE**. A Tale. By J. K. FALDING, Esq. In 2 vols. 12mo.
- THE YOUNG DUKE**. A Novel. By the Author of "Vivian Grey." 2 vols. 12mo.
- CALEB WILLIAMS**. In 2 vols. 12mo. By the Author of "Cloudesley," &c.
- PHILIP AUGUSTUS**. A Novel. By the Author of "Darnley," &c. 2 vols. 12mo.
- THE CLUB-BOOK**. By various Authors. In 2 vols. 12mo.
- DE VERE**. A Novel. By the Author of "Tremaine." In 2 vols. 12mo.
- THE SMUGGLER**. A Novel. By the Author of "The O'Hara Tales," &c. In 2 vols. 12mo.
- EVELINA**. A Novel. By Miss BURNEY. In 2 vols. 12mo.
- BULWER'S NOVELS**. Printed and bound uniformly in sets of 8 volumes—embracing "Pelham," "the Disowned," "Devereux," and "Paul Clifford."
- DARNLEY**. A Novel. By G. P. R. JAMES, Author of "Richelieu." In 2 vols. 12mo.
- DE L'ORME**. A Novel. By the Author of "Richelieu" and "Darnley." 2 vols. 12mo.
- HAVEPHILL**. A Novel. By J. A. JONES, Esq. In 2 vols. 12mo.
- TRAITS OF TRAVEL**. A Novel. In 2 vols. 12mo. By T. C. GRAYTON, Author of "Highways and Byways."
- THE HEIRESS OF BRUGES**. A Tale. By the Author of "Highways and Byways," "Traits of Travel," &c. 2 vols. 12mo.
- WALTER COLYTON**. A Tale. In 2 vols. 12mo. By HORACE SMITH, Author of "Brambletye-House," "Zillah," &c. &c.
- THE SIAMESE TWINS**. By the Author of "Pelham," &c. 12mo.
- MAXWELL**. A Novel. By the Author of "Sayings and Doings." 2 vols. 12mo.
- LAWRIE TODD; OR, THE SETTLERS IN THE WOODS**. By JOHN GALT, Esq. In 2 vols. 12mo.
- SOUTHENNAN**. A Novel. In 2 vols. 12mo. By the Author of "Lawrie Todd," &c. &c.
- THE NEW FOREST**. A Novel. In 2 vols. 12mo. By the Author of "Brambletye-House," "Zillah," &c. &c.
- RONOBEL**. By Mrs. SHERWOOD. In 3 vols. 18mo.
- THE RIVALS**. A Novel. By the Author of "The Collegians," &c. In 2 vols. 12mo.
- HUNGARIAN TALES**. In 2 vols. 12mo. By Mrs. GORE, Author of "the Lettre de Cachet" and "Romances of Real Life."
- ROMANCES OF REAL LIFE**. In 2 vols. 12mo.
- FRANCE, IN 1829-30**. By Lady MORGAN. In 2 vols. 12mo.
- COMING OUT; and THE FIELD OF THE FORTY FOOTSTEPS**. Novels. By Misses JANE and ANNA MARIA PORTER. In 3 vols.
- THE BARONY**. A Novel. In 2 vols. 12mo. By Miss ANNA MARIA PORTER.
- CLOUDESLEY**. A Novel. In 2 vols. 12mo. By the Author of "Caleb Williams," &c.
- SKETCHES OF IRISH CHARACTER**. By Mrs. SARAH C. HALL.
- THE RIVALS OF ESTE**; and other Poems. By JAMES G. and MARY E. BROOKS. 12mo.
- BEATRICE**. A Tale, founded on Facts. By Mrs. HOFLAND. In 2 vols. 12mo.
- CONTRAST**. A Novel. By REGINA MARIA ROCHE, Author of "the Children of the Abbey," &c. &c. In 2 vols. 12mo.
- THE DENOUNCED**. A Novel. In 2 vols. 12mo. By the Author of "The Smuggler."
- THE OXONIANS**. A Novel. In 2 vols. 12mo. By the Author of "The Roué."
- THE COUNTRY CURATE**. By the Author of "The Subaltern." In 2 vols. 12mo.

Works Published by J. & J. Harper.

- ROMANCE OF HISTORY, FRANCE.** In 2 vols. 12mo. By LEITCH RITCHIE, Esq.
- ROMANCE OF HISTORY, SPAIN.** In 2 vols. 12mo. By DON T. DE TRUEDA.
- ROMANCE OF HISTORY, ITALY.** In 2 vols. 12mo. By CHARLES MACFARLANE.
- THE INCOGNITO; or, SINS AND PECCADILLOES.** A Novel. By the Author of "Romance of History—Spain," "The Castilian," &c.
- THE TALRA.** A Novel. By Mrs. BRAY, Author of "The White Hoods," "The Protestant," &c.
- WAVERLEY; OR, 'TIS SIXTY YEARS SINCE.** A Novel. In 2 vols. 12mo. Revised, corrected, and enlarged by the Author.
- DE LISLE.** A Novel. 2 vols. 12mo.
- ST. VALENTINE'S DAY; or, THE FAIR MAID OF PERTH.** By the Author of "Waverley." In 2 vols. 12mo.
- THE DOOM OF DEVORGOIL; and AUCHINDRANE.** By the Author of "Waverley." 12mo.
- ALMACK'S REVISITED; or, HERBERT MILTON.** A Novel. In 2 vols. 12mo.
- YESTERDAY IN IRELAND.** A Novel. In 2 vols. 12mo.
- WALDEGRAVE.** A Novel. In 2 vols. 12mo.
- THE ADVENTURES of a KING'S PAGE.** A Novel. 2 vols. 12mo.
- TALES AND SKETCHES.** By a Country Schoolmaster. 12mo.
- SEPARATION.** A Novel. By Lady CHARLOTTE BURY, Author of "Flirtation." In 2 vols. 12mo.
- THE EXCLUSIVES.** A Novel. In 2 vols. 12mo.
- LIFE OF MANSIE WAUCH, TAILOR IN DALKEITH.** 12mo.
- THE LOST HEIR; and THE PRE-DECTION.** A Novel. In 2 vols.
- THE SUBALTERN'S LOG-BOOK.** A Novel. In 2 vols. 12mo.
- FOSCARINI.** A Novel. In 2 vols.
- HAJI BABA.** A Novel. In 2 vols.
- POSTHUMOUS PAPERS, FACETIOUS AND FANCIFUL.** 12mo.
- APICIAN MORSELS.** A Comical Work. With Cuts. 12mo.
- STORIES OF A BRIDE.** In 2 vols. 12mo.
- THE SCHOOL OF FASHION.** A Novel. In 2 vols. 12mo.
- RYBRENT DE CRUCE.** A Novel. In 2 vols. 12mo.
- THE ENGLISH AT HOME.** A Novel. In 2 vols. 12mo.
- THE LAST OF THE PLANTAGENETS.** An Historical Romance. In 2 vols. 12mo.
- TALES OF MILITARY LIFE.** In 2 vols. 12mo. By the Author of "The Military Sketch-Book."
- STRATTON HILL.** A Tale of the Civil Wars. In 2 vols. 12mo.
- PEACE CAMPAIGNS OF A CORNET.** A Novel. In 2 vols. 12mo.
- PRIVATE LIFE.** A Novel. In 2 vols. 12mo.
- TALES OF THE WEST.** 2 vols. 12mo.
- JACQUELINE OF HOLLAND.** By T. C. GRANTAS, Esq. 2 vols. 12mo.
- SIR EDWARD SEAWARD'S NARRATIVE OF HIS SHIP-WRECK, &c.** Edited by Miss Jane Porter. In 3 vols. 12mo.

In Press,

HARPER'S FAMILY LIBRARY—

Of this work, which is intended to combine the two objects of instruction and amusement, comprising as much entertaining matter as can be given along with useful knowledge, several volumes are already published.

THE LIBRARY OF SELECT NOVELS—

which will embrace no works but such as have received the impress of general approbation, or have been written by authors of established character. Several volumes are now published. See Catalogue.

DRAMATIC LIBRARY—

being selections from popular standard Dramatic writers; illustrated with Explanatory Notes, and adapted to Family reading, by the omission of all exceptionable passages. Several volumes are already published. See Catalogue.

FAMILY CLASSICAL LIBRARY; or English translations of the

most valuable Greek and Latin Classics. Several volumes are now published. See Catalogue.

PROSPECTUS

OF THE

LIBRARY OF SELECT NOVELS.

FICTITIOUS composition is now admitted to form an extensive and important portion of literature. Well-wrought novels take their rank by the side of real narratives, and are appealed to as evidence in all questions concerning man. In them the customs of countries, the transitions and shades of character, and even the very peculiarities of costume and dialect, are curiously preserved; and the imperishable spirit that surrounds and keeps them for the use of successive generations renders the rarities for ever fresh and green. In them human life is laid down upon a map. The strong and vivid exhibitions of passion and of character which they furnish, acquire and maintain the strongest hold upon the curiosity, and, it may be added, the affections of every class of readers; for not only is entertainment in all the various moods of tragedy and comedy provided in their pages, but he who reads them attentively may often obtain, without the bitterness and danger of experience, that knowledge of his fellow-creatures which but for such aid could, in the majority of cases, be only acquired at a period of life too late to turn it to account.

This "Library of Select Novels" will embrace none but such as have received the impress of general approbation, or have been written by authors of established character; and the publishers hope to receive such encouragement from the public patronage as will enable them in the course of time to produce a series of works of uniform appearance, and including most of the really valuable novels and romances that have been or shall be issued from the modern English and American press.

There is scarcely any question connected with the interests of literature which has been more thoroughly discussed and investigated than that of the utility or evil of novel reading. In its favour much may be and has been said, and it must be admitted that the reasonings of those who believe novels to be injurious, or at least useless, are not without force and plausibility. Yet, if the arguments against novels are closely examined, it will be found that they are more applicable in general to excessive indulgence in the pleasures afforded by the perusal of fictitious adventures than to the works themselves; and that the evils which can be justly ascribed to them arise almost exclusively, not from any peculiar noxious qualities that can be fairly attributed to novels as a species, but from those individual works which in their class must be pronounced to be indifferent.

But even were it otherwise—were novels of every kind, the good as well as the bad, the striking and animated not less than the puerile, indeed liable to the charge of enfeebling or perverting the mind; and were there no qualities in any which might render them instructive as well as amusing—the universal acceptance which they have ever received, and still continue to receive, from all ages and classes of men, would prove an irresistible incentive to their production. The remonstrances of moralists and the reasonings of philosophy have ever been, and will still be found, unavailing against the desire to partake of an enjoyment so attractive. Men will read novels; and therefore the utmost that wisdom and philanthropy can do is to cater prudently for the public appetite, and, as it is hopeless to attempt the exclusion of fictitious writings from the shelves of the library, to see that they are encumbered with the least possible number of such as have no other merit than that of novelty.

HARPER'S FAMILY LIBRARY.

"Books that you may carry to the fire, and hold readily in your hand, are the most useful of all. A man will often look at them, and be tempted to go on, when he would have been frightened at books of a larger size, and of a more erudite appearance."—DR. JOHNSON.

The proprietors of the Family Library feel themselves stimulated to increased exertions by the distinguished favour with which it has already been received.

The volumes now before the public may be confidently appealed to as proofs of zeal on the part of the publishers to present to their readers a series of productions, which, as they are connected, not with ephemeral, but with permanent subjects, may, years hence as well as now, be consulted for lively amusement as well as solid instruction.

To render this Library still more worthy of patronage, the proprietors propose incorporating in it such works of interest and value as may appear in the various Libraries and Miscellanies now preparing in Europe, particularly the "National" and the "Edinburgh Cabinet" Libraries. All these productions, as they emanate from the press, will be submitted to a committee of literary gentlemen for inspection; and none will be reprinted but such as shall be found calculated to sustain the exalted character which this Library has already acquired.

Several well-known authors have been engaged to prepare for it original works of an American character, on History, Biography, Travels, &c. &c.

Every distinct subject will in general be comprehended in one volume, or at most in three volumes, which may form either a portion of the series or a complete work by itself; and each volume will be embellished with appropriate engravings.

The entire series will be the production of authors of eminence, who have acquired celebrity by their literary labours, and whose names, as they appear in succession, will afford the surest guarantee to the public for the satisfactory manner in which the subjects will be treated.

Such is the plan by which it is intended to form an *American Family Library*, comprising all that is valuable in those branches of knowledge which most happily unite entertainment with instruction. The utmost care will be taken, not only to exclude whatever can have an injurious influence on the mind, but to embrace every thing calculated to strengthen the best and most salutary impressions.

With these arrangements and facilities, the publishers flatter themselves that they shall be able to present to their fellow-citizens a work of unparalleled merit and cheapness, embracing subjects adapted to all classes of readers, and forming a body of literature deserving the praise of having instructed many, and amused all; and above every other species of eulogy, of being fit to be introduced, without reserve or exception, by the father of a family to the domestic circle. Meanwhile, the very low price at which it is charged renders more extensive patronage necessary for its support and prosecution. The *immediate* encouragement, therefore, of those who approve its plan and execution is respectfully solicited. The work may be obtained in complete sets, or in separate numbers, from the principal booksellers throughout the United States.

THE *J. Harris*
LETTERS
OF THE
BRITISH SPY.

BY WILLIAM WIRT, ESQ.

TENTH EDITION, REVISED AND CORRECTED.

TO WHICH IS PREFIXED,
A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE AUTHOR.

NEW-YORK:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY J. & J. HARPER,
NO. 82 CLIFF-STREET,
AND SOLD BY THE PRINCIPAL BOOKSELLERS THROUGHOUT
THE UNITED STATES.

1832.

[Entered according to the Act of Congress, in the year 1832, by J. & J. Harper, in the Office of the Clerk of the Southern District of New-York.]

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

OF

WILLIAM WIRT.

IN reprinting a portion of the literary productions of Mr. Wirt, the publishers have thought that a few particulars might not be unacceptable to the reader, of an individual who has long been familiar to the public in other positions very different from that of the writer or mere man of letters. They are indebted, in great part, for the opportunity of giving these details, to materials collected by another hand, some time since, and for another purpose. The present occasion may excuse a sketch which other obvious considerations, however, may render somewhat meager. Biography has a delicate office while her subjects are yet living, as she may be accused of flattery on the one hand, and, on the other, may be thought to misplace and mistime the impartial censure which she, no less than History, owes to truth, when, like the Egyptian tribunal, she sits in judgment on the dead.