

**THE LIFE OF HARMAN BLENNERHASSETT;
COMPRISING AN AUTHENTIC
NARRATIVE OF THE BURR EXPEDITION
AND CONTAINING MANY ADDITIONAL
FACTS NOT HERETOFORE PUBLISHED**

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The life of Harman Blennerhassett; comprising an authentic narrative of the Burr expedition and containing many additional facts not heretofore published by William H. Safford

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WILLIAM H. SAFFORD

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PREFACE.

WHILE collecting materials for the present biography, I have met with unexpected difficulties in procuring authentic information from the contemporaries of Blennerhassett. This is to be accounted for in the plain simplicity of most of his neighbours, who took but little interest in his scientific pursuits—of which they could neither understand the philosophy, nor comprehend the meaning. The consequence was, they associated but little with the man, and their acquaintance was derived more from what they saw, than from what they heard.

It gives me pleasure to acknowledge the courtesy of Dr. S. P. HILDRETH, of Marietta, in permitting me the use of the various historical incidents which his assiduity and love of the curious have rescued from oblivion. From the Blennerhassett Papers, published by WILLIAM WALLACE, Esq., I have made liberal quotations. To Maj. HORACE NYE, of Putnam, and Col.

JOSEPH BARKER, of Newport, I am alike indebted for much valuable matter—rendered more interesting from the fact that they were eye-witnesses of some of the scenes I have attempted to describe. Others have furnished me with materials; but the multiplicity of their names must excuse their non-appearance.

I have been careful to introduce nothing, as fact, but what has been fully corroborated by living witnesses. Nor have I attempted to screen from the public eye the infirmities or faults of the subjects of these pages; while, at the same time, I can truly say, their virtues have not been exaggerated.

The work is now submitted to a charitable public, with a knowledge of its many imperfections. More skilful hands might have avoided many faults with which I am justly chargeable, and rendered it far more palatable to the reading critic.

THE AUTHOR.

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