

**ON THE NEW GENERAL
BIOGRAPHICAL
DICTIONARY**

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On the New general biographical dictionary by Hugh James Rose & Henry J. Rose

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HUGH JAMES ROSE & HENRY J. ROSE

**ON THE NEW GENERAL
BIOGRAPHICAL
DICTIONARY**



NEW GENERAL
BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY,

PROJECTED AND PARTLY ARRANGED

BY THE LATE

REV. HUGH JAMES ROSE, B.D.,

PRINCIPAL OF KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON :

EDITED BY THE

REV. HENRY J. ROSE, B.D.,

RECTOR OF HOUGHTON CONQUEST, BEDFORDSHIRE ;
AND LATE FELLOW OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.



THE want of a Biographical Dictionary, at once comprehensive in its range of names, and moderate in extent, has long been felt and acknowledged. The two works which appear the most nearly to meet the wishes of the public, in this respect, are the "Biographie Universelle," and the "General Biographical Dictionary of Chalmers." While the merit and value of each of these works is duly recognised, it will at once be acknowledged that they labour under inherent dis-

advantages, which preclude them from general acceptance, as a means of supplying this long-felt want. The extent of the "Biographie Universelle" banishes it almost entirely from the shelves of private libraries, even of a superior order. But this is not all; the preponderance given to French lives, the inaccuracy of some of its articles¹, and the disproportionate space occupied by unimportant lives, deprive its pages of much of their usefulness to the general reader. On the other hand, the work of Chalmers, although highly meritorious in some departments, is so deficient in the number of names which it embraces, that it is wholly inadequate to satisfy the readers of the present day. Thus the extent of one of these works, and the deficiencies of the other, alike cripple their general utility, and create an imperative demand for a new work, which shall steer a middle course between the two. It is to meet this demand that the "NEW DICTIONARY OF GENERAL BIOGRAPHY" has been projected. The object of those by whom it has been brought forward, is, to produce a work superior to any thing which at present exists within the same limits, and to present to the public a mass of information which cannot be found in any other work, however extensive. The services of many able Contributors have already been engaged, and as the work has been for a long time in preparation, the

¹ This remark extends not merely to individual names, but to whole classes of articles, *e. g.* the Spanish and Portuguese lives. This circumstance has induced the Editor of the present work to place all these articles in the hands of a gentleman, who for many years has cultivated Spanish literature with the most distinguished success.

Editor feels justified in promising the appearance of a Part every month, until the whole is concluded. It is impossible, in a general Prospectus, to give a detail of the plan adopted in every particular. Suffice it to state, that the Editor feels himself responsible for the ability of the Contributors in whose hands any portion of the work is placed, and for the general tone of sentiment pervading its pages. It will also be his constant endeavour to preserve the relation between the extent of the articles, and the importance of the subject, to such a degree, that the work may constitute one harmonious whole. The Dictionary will be founded on the existing collections of Biography (especially the *Biographie Universelle*) as far, and so far only, as they may be safely consulted. The matter thus collected will be augmented and corrected from such sources as the reading of individual Contributors (among whom will be found many distinguished names) may supply; and a vast fund of original information, and many hundred names not to be found elsewhere, will be added to the existing stock of knowledge on biographical subjects. The lives also of eminent men will generally be written by Contributors who have made the respective paths of eminence, pursued by those individuals, their peculiar study. Having made these general statements, the Editor feels that it is better to trust to performances than promises, and will leave the work, on its appearance, to speak for itself.

It is a duty to all persons concerned in this work to state, that it was originally projected by the late Principal of

4 NEW GENERAL BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY.

King's College, London,—the Rev. Hugh James Rose; and a considerable portion of it was executed under arrangements made by him, although no part of it was subjected to his revision. In consequence of his deeply lamented decease, the work was placed in the hands of the present Editor, whose earnest endeavour it will be to follow out the plan originally devised, with such modifications as circumstances, and the advantage of the work itself, may seem to demand.

The "NEW GENERAL BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY" will be published in Monthly Parts, price four shillings and sixpence each, and, when completed, will most probably not exceed twelve closely printed volumes, octavo.

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