

**VIRGINIA, ESPECIALLY  
RICHMOND, IN BY-GONE DAYS;  
WITH A GLANCE AT THE PRESENT,  
BEING REMINISCENCES AND  
LAST WORDS OF AN OLD CITIZEN**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649729791

Virginia, Especially Richmond, in By-Gone Days; With a Glance at the Present, Being  
Reminiscences and Last Words of an Old Citizen by Samuel Mordecai

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](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**SAMUEL MORDECAI**

**VIRGINIA, ESPECIALLY  
RICHMOND, IN BY-GONE DAYS;  
WITH A GLANCE AT THE PRESENT,  
BEING REMINISCENCES AND  
LAST WORDS OF AN OLD CITIZEN**



VIRGINIA,  
ESPECIALLY  
RICHMOND,  
IN BY-GONE DAYS;

WITH A GLANCE AT THE PRESENT:

*Dr. Inverarity*  
BEING REMINISCENCES AND LAST WORDS OF  
*Aug 2 1862*  
An Old Citizen.

BY SAMUEL MORDKAI.

"HÆC OLIS REMINISSE JUVADIT."

---

Second Edition,  
With many corrections and additions.

---

RICHMOND:  
WEST & JOHNSTON, PUBLISHERS.  
1860.

---

Entered, according to act of Congress, in the year 1860,  
By SAMUEL MORDREAU,  
In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United  
States for the Eastern District of Virginia.

---

C. H. WINNE, PRINTER, RICHMOND.

EXTRACT of a letter from WASHINGTON IRVING to the author,  
dated Sunny-Side, July 6, 1856.

"I had especially intended to thank you for your little volume, for it was particularly acceptable to me. '*Richmond in By-Gone Days*' was Richmond as I knew it in the days of my youth, nearly fifty years since. Every page of your volume brought up some delightful recollection of scenes and characters long since passed away; for at Richmond, at the time of my visit, there was a rare assemblage of the talent and beauty of Virginia; and the impressions I received then have ever made the 'Old Dominion' dear to me."

---

Letter from Dr. JOHN W. FRANCIS to the author, dated New York, May 13, 1857.

"*Dear Sir*,—Your interesting volume of men and things, (your reminiscences,) came safely to hand. I had already read the work with much gratification. It is such books that help to make up history, when writers like Macaulay take pen in hand. I shall preserve the volume, and I hope to have some notice taken of it. With many, many thanks, &c."

---

From the New York Observer, Nov. 20, 1855.

"This volume is full of pleasant reading, even for a stranger, but much more interesting to those who know the Capital of the Old Dominion. It is the work of leisure hours, delightfully spent in gathering up the threads of past days, and preserving the records that would otherwise be left to perish."





## CONTENTS.

---

	Page
PREFACE to First Edition, . . . . .	xiii
PREFACE to Second Edition, . . . . .	xv
INTRODUCTION.—Origin of Richmond—Grants of land to William Byrd, 1673 to 1679—Town established 1742—Lottery 1756—Seat of government 1779—City 1782, . . .	17
CHAPTER I.— <i>Long time ago</i> —Market house—Shoekoe Creek—Rock Landing—Mall—Widewilt's Island—Sabrina—Shot Tower—Cage—Stocks—Cart-tail—Ducking stool—Common scolds, . . . . .	28
CHAP. II.— <i>British Merchants and Commercial Quacks</i> —Celibacy—Tobacco conventions—Evasion of usury—Sham bills of exchange—Monopoly—Northern intrusion on it.—Capital abstracted—Legislative action to the injury of trade—Commercial conventions, . . . . .	83
CHAP. III.— <i>Modern Antiquities</i> —Old Stone House—Adams' mansion—St. John's Church—Masonic Hall—Bird in Hand, City Tavern, Bowler's—Falling Garden—Henry Banks—Treasury—Council chamber—House of Mr. Strange, Mr. Gilliat, Mr. Marx,—Col. Mayo—Hermitage—Bellville—Bridge—Old Capitol—J. Brown, sea'r and jun'r, . . . . .	44
CHAP. IV.— <i>Main Street</i> —Last of the wooden houses—Brick row—The Old Gun, Eagle Tavern, Harris' high house—Seawell Osgood, Fireman and Fifer—Mrs. Gilbert's Coffee house, Globe Tavern—Dust and mud—Spring Branch—Lombardy poplars—Tan-bark Hall, Colia's	

	Page
Lynch's Coffee house—War news—Aspring Garden, horse, . . . . .	60
CHAP. V.— <i>Broad Street</i> —Bootwright, Gathright—Western trade—Wagons—Uphill work—Richards' tavern, . . .	65
CHAP. VI.— <i>Capitol and Square</i> —Ravines, Weeds, Barracks—Governor's house—Hendon's statue of Washington—Speaker's chair—Grand stove—The grounds—Former and present surface of the city—Numerous springs—Black cockades and tri-colored, . . . . .	71
CHAP. VII.— <i>Old Residences and their Occupants</i> —Lawyers—Elbow-room—Treasurer Ambler, Letter from his daughter, describing Richmond in 1780—Chief Justice Marshall, his simplicity of manners, his devotion to his wife, his eulogium on her—Col. Carrington—Daniel Call, dialogue with a client—George Fisher, Major Ambler, Judge Nicholas, B. W. Leigh, Col. John Harvie—Belvidere—Dedication—Mr. Wickham, retort courteous—Benjamin Botts—Chapman Johnson, his sons—Alexander McRae—Mr. Pickett outwitted—Mr. Pollard averse to law or to trickery—Charles Johnston rescued from the stake—Dr. Lyons, P. Tinsley, Col. R. Gamble and his sons and daughters—Mr. Wirt's theatrical display in euerpe—Bushrod Washington, Edmund Randolph and descendants—George Hay, his widow daughter of President Monroe—Dr. McClurg, his high standing—Major Du Val, Ralph Ringwood, Chancellor Wythe—Letter from Henry Clay, respecting his life and death—Statue of Mr. Clay by Hart and the Ladies—John Warden, his beauty, wit and grace; his apology to the Legislature—Alex'r Campbell, J. Barrett, William Hay, Joseph Marx, William Munford, . . . . .	79
CHAP. VIII.— <i>Old Residences and their Occupants, continued</i> —William Robertson, clerk of the council, and his chil-	

	Page
dren;—Anthony Robinson—Thos. Ritchie, of the En- quiver—Andrew Dunscombe and descendants—Arch'd Blair, John Graham—John Robinson, clerk, and his sons;—J. Dobie, Edw'd Cunningham, Dr. Watson—Jno. Brown, clerk and secretary—J. Hopkins—Cannon balls from the Bosphorus—H. Moncure, A. Duval, Dr. Well- ford, Gen. Braxton, Andrew Nicholson, Rev Mr. Wood- bridge, McClure, Brydie, McCredie, Col. Tatem, Bishop Moore, Jos. Jackson, P. Gibson, N. Mills, Southgate, Jacob Cohen, Sam'l Myers, Wm. Wischam, J. Prosser, W. Moncure, J. Heron, C. Copland, C. Ellis—Albert Gallatin, his letter respecting his early life in Virginia; his house in Richmond and subsequent occupants— Bushrod Washington, J. D. McCaw and Conway Rob- inson—Major Gibbon, his son burned in the theatre— D. M. Randolph—Moldavia, Mrs. Randolph the queen, her dominion; the refrigerator her invention—Col. T. M. Randolph, Mrs. Hackley, Gouverneur Morris and Wife; Miss G., the paragon of beauty; Mr. Gallego, the miller; J. Allan, Edgar Allan Poe, And. Ronald, David Ross, Thomas Rutherford, Jas. Pegram, Sam'l Taylor, J. Penn, T. Wilson, D. Bullock, W. Price, G. W. Munford, J. R. Anderson; J. Y. Mason, his cool- ness while his house was burning; J. A. Chevallic, anecdote of Beaumarchais; P. Drew, T. Richardson; J. Mutter, father of Professor M.; Dr. Hayes; Thos. Green, deities in Marble—A parting scene—Judge Roane, autocrat of the Democracy; Mr. Webb, his suc- cessor (not an autocrat)—Church Hill—Adams' family, their hill-top residences—William Marshall, Gov. G. W. Smith, Geo. Nicolson and descendants; Friend Couch, J. Foster, Strobis, Clarke, Lambert, A. Craig, Andrew Stevenson, Judge Stanard, William Rowlett, Richard Young, Mrs. Young, a resident of Mount Vernon dur- ing Washington's life, . . . . .	112