

**THE LIFE OF
HORATIO,
LORD NELSON**

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The Life of Horatio, Lord Nelson by Robert Southey

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ROBERT SOUTHEY

**THE LIFE OF
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LORD NELSON**

THE LIFE
OF
HORATIO, LORD NELSON.

"Twas at the close of that dark morn
On which our Hero conquering died,
That every woman's heart was torn
By strife of sorrow and of pride :—

Of pride, that one short day could show
Seeds of eternal splendour done,—
Full twenty hostile Ensigns low,
And twenty glorious Victories won :—

Of grief, of deepest, tenderest grief,
That he, on every sea and shore,
Their brave, beloved, unconquered chief,
Should wave his Victor flag no more.

CROKER.



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PREFACE.

THE completion of the Nelson Despatches has now enabled the writer to compile a life of Nelson with the greatest accuracy of facts, and the clearest insight into the heart of that great hero. No description of a man as he really is, surpasses that which is contained in the plain straightforward relation of his thoughts, feelings, acts, and intentions in private letters designed for the perusal of those alone to whom they were addressed. The letters of a man like Petrarch, who always thought more of the public than of his correspondent, "and the bearer of whose letters," says Sismondi, "well knew that he would flatter the vanity of the writer by communicating it, and, therefore, openly read it, and even gave copies of it before it reached its destination," gave no insight into the character of the writer. "It is certain," said the great Lord Hardwick, "that no works have done more service to mankind than those which have appeared in the shape of letters on familiar subjects, and which were never intended for publication. This it is which renders them valuable; for I must confess, for my part, that letters which are very elaborately written, and originally intended for publication, are generally the most insignificant, and very little worth any person's reading."

The letters of Nelson, excepting his few public despatches, are all evidently written for the correspondent alone, and are full of that freshness and reality which ever characterises the letter to a relation, and an intimate friend. There the heart speaks rather than the head, and the man appears without disguise. From them, now so carefully and ably edited, the following sketch has been drawn: in no way pretending to a comparison with the beautiful narrative of Southey, but hoping to compensate for its inferiority in style, by its greater correctness in facts.

PRINCIPAL EVENTS

IN

LORD NELSON'S LIFE.

1758. September 29.—Born.
1770. Midshipman of Reasonable.
1773. North Pole.
1777. Passed for Lieutenant.
1778. December 8.—Commander.
1779. June. Post Captain.
1782. American station.
1783. West Indies.
1784. Leeward Islands. Antigua.
1787. March 11.—Marriage.
1793. Mediterranean. Agamemnon.
1794. Sieges of Bastia, Calvi. Loss of eye.
1795. Action with *Ca Ira*. Comadore. Col. Marines.
1796. Gulf of Geneva. Corsica.
1797. February 14.—Battle of St. Vincent.
" " 20.—Rear Admiral of the Blue.
" March 17.—Knight of the Bath.
" May—July. Bombarding Cadix.
" July 24.—Attack on *Vera Cruz*. Loss of arm.
" September.—Home.
1798. Mediterranean.
" June—July. The chase.
" August 1.—The battle of the Nile. Baron Nelson.
" October.—Naples.
1799. Palermo. Rear Admiral of the Red.
" July—August. Naples. The capitulation. Caraccioli.
" September.—Acting Commander-in-chief. Duke of Bronte.
1800. Under Lord Keith.
" February 18.—*Le Généreux* captured.
" March.—*Le Guillaume Tell* captured.
" June 1.—K. C. B.
" July.—Struck flag. Journey through Germany.
" November 6. Landed at Yarmouth.

VIII PRINCIPAL EVENTS IN LORD NELSON'S LIFE.

1801. January 1.—Vice-Admiral of the Blue.
 " " 13.—Separation from Lady Nelson.
 " March 12.—Sailed for the Baltic under Sir H. Parker.
 " April 2.—Battle of Copenhagen.
 " " 27.—Commander-in-chief.
 " May 22.—Viscount Nelson.
 " June 19.—Resigned command.
 " July 1.—Yarmouth.
 " " 24.—Commander of Channel fleet.
 " August 16.—Attack on flotilla at Boulogne.
 " " 18.—Baron Nelson with special remainders.
 " December.—Merton.
1802. January.—Vice-Admiral of the Blue in command of Channel fleet.
 " April 10.—Struck flag. Peace of Amiens.
1803. May 15.—Commander-in-chief Mediterranean, in the Victory.
 " July 1.—Joined his fleet off Toulon. Commencement of his blockade.
1804. April 23.—Vice-Admiral of the White.
 " October.—War with Spain. Blockade still continues.
1805. January 11.—Escape of French fleet, which, after short cruise, return to Toulon.
 " March 30.—Final escape of French fleet to the West Indies. Nelson in pursuit.
 " June 4.—Nelson at Barbadoes.
 " " 13.—Sailed from Antigua in pursuit of French to England.
 " " 18. Gibraltar.
 " August 16.—Home. Struck flag.
 " September 2.—News of combined fleets.
 " " 15.—Sailed for Cadiz.
 " " 28.—Joined Collingwood off Cadiz.
 " October 21.—Battle of Trafalgar.

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1758—1764.

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