

**THE WORKS IN FIFTEEN
VOLUMES, VOLUME
XIII, WALPOLE**

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The Works in fifteen volumes, volume XIII, Walpole by John Morley

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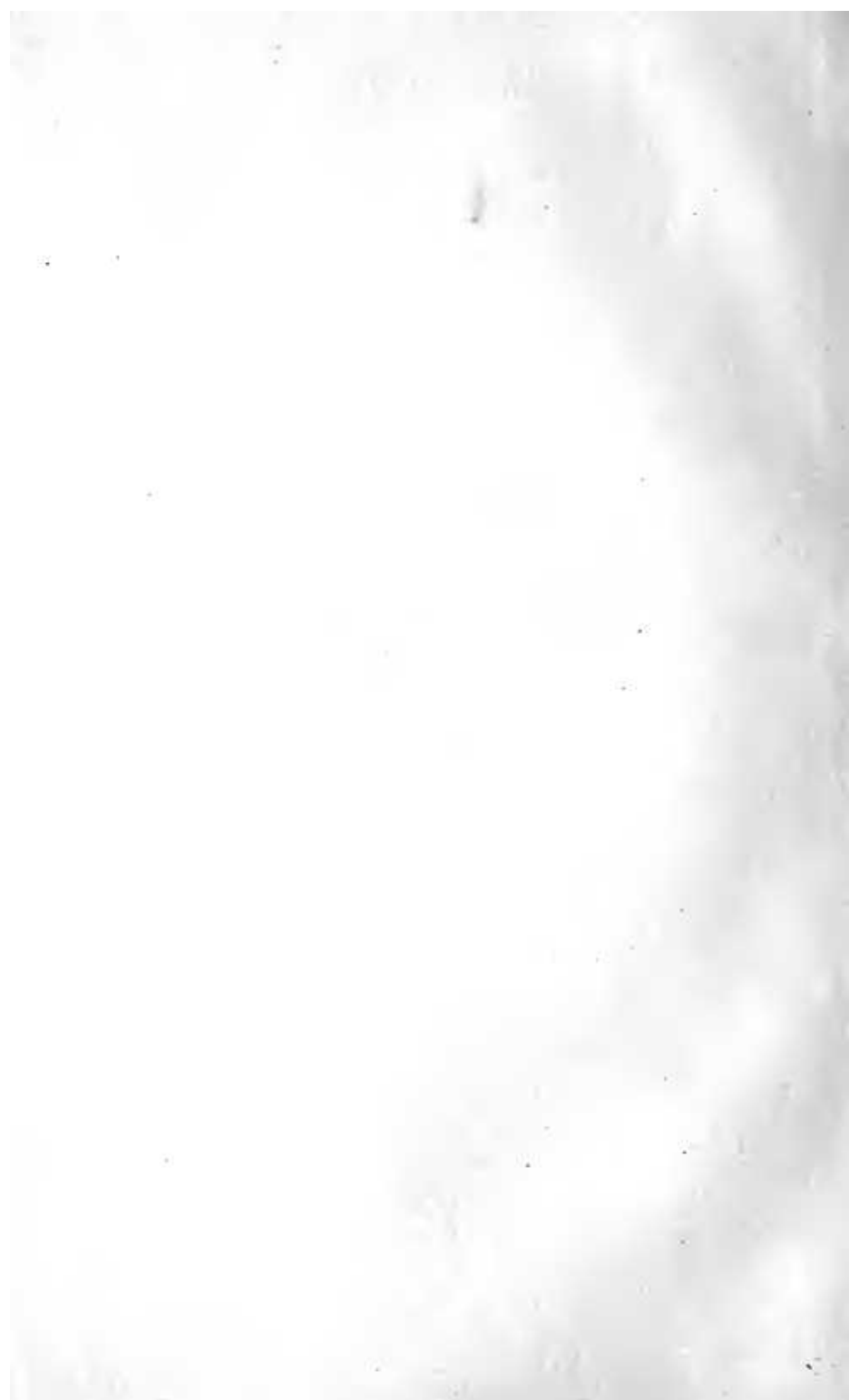
JOHN MORLEY

**THE WORKS IN FIFTEEN
VOLUMES, VOLUME
XIII, WALPOLE**

Edition de Luxe

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THE WORKS
OF
LORD MORLEY
IN
FIFTEEN VOLUMES
VOLUME XIII



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WALPOLE

BY

JOHN VISCOUNT MORLEY

O.M.

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CHAPTER I

EARLY YEARS AND FIRST STAGES OF PUBLIC LIFE

WALPOLE was born in August 1676. He came fifth among nineteen children born to Mr. Robert Walpole, a country gentleman of Norfolk, of good estate and ancient lineage. The founder of the family had come over with William of Normandy, and the stock had shown its vigour by an unbroken descent in the male line for no fewer than eighteen generations. Walpoles had been knights of the shire as far back as Edward II. Edward Walpole, grandfather of the future minister, sat in the Convention Parliament of 1660. He is said to have acquired a respectable character for eloquence and weight ; he voted for the restoration of Charles II., and he was made a Knight of the Bath. Robert, his son, was in Parliament from the Revolution until his death in 1700. An active Whig in politics, he was a man of marked prudence and credit in his private conduct. A good name in those days was not incompatible with a jovial temper and much steady drinking. Mr. Walpole was fond of sport, fond of farming and business, and fond of plenty of company and plenty of Nottingham ale. He always took care of his money. An old book, in which he set down all his expenses, showed that he knew how to live in London for upwards of three months for the moderate sum of sixty-five pounds seven shillings and fivepence.

Mr. Walpole sent his third son to Eton and