

JERDAN, WILLIAM, F.S.A., was born at Kelso, Roxburghshire, 1782. Being intended for the legal profession, he was placed for some time in the office of a writer to the signet. His inclination for literary pursuits, however, led him to abandon the law, and in 1806 he settled in London. After accepting an engagement as a reporter on the 'Aurora,' a short-lived morning paper, he afterwards joined the 'Pilot,' evening newspaper, established in January, 1807. He was on the staff of the 'Morning Post,' reported during three sessions for the 'British Press,' and was a contributor to the 'Satirist, or Monthly Meteor,' the copyright of which he purchased. He was instrumental in

seizing Bellingham, the murderer of Spencer Perceval, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the lobby of the House of Commons, and has given a detailed account of that event in his Autobiography. In 1813 he became editor of the 'Sun,' then a Tory organ; in 1816 sold his share in that newspaper, and in 1817 became editor and part proprietor of the 'Literary Gazette,' with which his name was associated for thirty-four years. In 1821 he assisted in founding the Royal Society of Literature, and he took a prominent part for some time in the administration of the Literary Fund. In 1852 a pension of 100*l.* per annum was conferred upon him. He died at Bushey Heath, Herts, 11 July, 1869. Mr. Jerdan wrote four volumes of the Memoirs for 'Fisher's National Portrait Gallery of Eminent Personages of the Nineteenth Century;' 'The Paris Spectator,' 1814; 'Voyage to the Isle of Elba;' edited the 'Rutland Papers' and the 'Perth Correspondence' for the Camden Society; and contributed to many periodical publications. His 'Autobiography,' a record of his literary, political, and social reminiscences and correspondence to 1830, was published in 4 vols., 1852-53; and his reminiscences of distinguished characters, under the title of 'Men I have known,' in 1866.

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Vol. I. price 5s. on the 1st of May, with a PORTRAIT of the AUTHOR, engraved by ROBINSON, from a Painting by HARLOWE

It is proposed to complete the Work in 4 or 6 Volumes, to be published Quarterly.

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF WILLIAM JERDAN;

WITH HIS LITERARY, POLITICAL, AND SOCIAL REMINISCENCES
AND CORRESPONDENCE,

DURING THE LAST FORTY YEARS,

AS EDITOR OF THE SUN NEWSPAPER, 1812—17, AND OF THE
LITERARY GAZETTE, 1817—50,

In connection with most of the Eminent Persons who have been distinguished in the
past half-century as Statesmen, Poets, Authors, Men of Science, Artists, &c.

THE "Gallery" commences appropriately with the εἰδωλον of WILLIAM JERDAN, the Nestor, if not the Aristarchus, of journalistic critics. We will not deny that he was born in 1730, as stated above, but think it right to mention that a William Jerdan first saw the light at Kelso, where his father had a small estate, on April 16, 1782. Some seventy years after this event,—in August, 1851,—a testimonial was set on foot, "as a public acknowledgment of the literary labours of William Jerdan, animating to many and instructive to all, since the commencement of the *Literary Gazette*, in 1817, to the close of the last year, and of the value of his services to Literature, Science, and the Fine and Useful Arts." On the Committee for the promotion of this laudable object were men of the highest position in literature, art, and politics,—Brougham, Croly, Lockhart, Maclise, Thackeray, Bulwer, Cruikshank, &c.

The establishment of the *Literary Gazette*—the first weekly journal of criticism and *Belles Lettres* in this country,—and his "gallant seizure" of Bellingham (May 11, 1812), are incidents in the life of Jerdan mentioned by the editor of "Don Juan" in his *Preface*, as constituting the title of the critic to be remembered by posterity. His narrow escape of at least receiving a challenge to fight a duel with the noble author of that poem may also be mentioned among his credentials. It appears that some remarks which he had made on Byron's lines to Mrs. Charlemont having given offence, the irate bard entrusted a cartel of defiance to his friend, Douglas Kinnaird, who, wisely retaining it in his possession till he had an opportunity of appealing from Philip drunk to Philip sober, succeeded in dissuading the poet from his angry purpose.

JERDAN TESTIMONIAL.

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As a public acknowledgment of the literary labours of MR. JERDAN, animating to many, and instructive to all, since the commencement of the *Literary Gazette* in 1817 to the close of last year, and of the value of his services to Literature, Science, and the Fine and Useful Arts, a Subscription has been opened under the auspices of the above Committee, and the following already received and announced:—

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