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Devon



Mr Macaulay will do
himself the honor of waiting
on Sir William and Lady
Wood & dinner on
Saturday the 19th of June
Albany May 28. 1852

MACAULAY, Thomas Babington, Lord, a celebrated historian, orator, essayist, and poet, was the son of the preceding. His mother, whose maiden name was Mills, was the daughter of a Quaker, had been a schoolmistress at Bristol, and been trained under the care of the celebrated Hannah More. His father's sister having been the wife of Thomas Babington, a merchant, the future historian received those names at the baptismal font. From his birth he exhibited signs of superiority and genius, and more especially of that power of memory which startled every one by its quickness, flexibility, and range. While he was yet a boy, he was in incessant request to "tell books" to his youthful companions; and at that early date he was in the habit of repeating and declaiming the longest "Arabian Night" as fluently as Schehezerade herself. A little later, he would recite one of Scott's novels, story, characters, and scenery, almost as well as though the book were in his hands. His household books were, however, the Bible and the "Pilgrim's Progress;" and many a strong passage in his works of description or vituperation, sprinkled with biblical words, shows how familiar he had been with scriptural phraseology in early youth. From school he went to the university of Cambridge, where he earned reputation by his verses and his oratory, and by his youthful contributions to Charles Knight's "Quarterly Magazine." He graduated B.A. in 1822, and M.A. in 1826. He had already entered himself at Lincoln's Inn, and been called to the bar. His real entry into literature was through the gates of the "Edinburgh Review," his first effort being a brilliant essay on Milton. During twenty years this first contribution was followed by many others, some upon books, some upon lives of eminent men, of which the best were those on Hastings and Clive, original efforts of his genius working on new material, the gathering of his own eye and ear in the country which they so splendidly describe. His political career was commenced in 1830, under the auspices of Lord Lansdowne, who, seeing an article on the ballot by the young barrister, at once sought him out, and introduced him to parliament as member for Calne. The government made him secretary of the board of control for India, and thus secured his talents for the service of the Whigs. In 1834 he went to India as a member of the supreme council; and having in two years and a half made a considerable addition to his fortune, he came back to England to acquire fame. For a few years he pursued both politics and letters, representing Edinburgh in the House of Commons, and writing articles for the "Edinburgh Review." A quarrel with his constituents broke his connection with the House of Commons, and restored him to literature. It is true, the citizens of Edinburgh again chose him