

THE
SAUNTERER,
A
PERIODICAL PAPER,
IN TWO VOLUMES.

BY **HEWSON CLARKE,**
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—◆—
SECOND EDITION, WITH ADDITIONS,
And a Sketch of the Author's Life.

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Mores et Studia dicam.

Haud facile emergunt quorum virtutibus obstat
Res angusta.

VOLUME I.

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PREFACE.



MANY of the following Essays were first given to the world through the medium of the Tyne Mercury. The approbation with which they were received has induced me to revise the remaining Numbers, and to publish them collectively.

For all the papers, except those signed X. I must be responsible. I have been indebted for the latter, which form perhaps the most valuable part of this volume, to a gentleman whose name and talents would do honour to any undertaking. The criticisms on Master Betty, though not consistent with the original plan, are inserted by the desire of their former readers. I have prefixed translations to all the mottoes, except the French ones, which

it may be presumed, are intelligible to all who will *read the Saunterer*.

If the approbation by which I was first induced to publish the present volume be not hereafter continued, I shall regret the inconstancy of praise, but I shall not accuse myself of temerity or arrogance. He who has pleased the readers of a newspaper without the aid of buffoonery, politics, or scandal, has some reason to believe that his labour has not been entirely useless. To have gained by my writings the favour and the friendship of a few, without influence, flattery, or riches, is a better excuse for my literary presumption than can commonly be offered. I am unwilling to believe that the *Essays* which were applauded when their author was unknown, will lose their interest when he is discovered.

Should I even be disgraced as a writer, I do not think that it will much dishonour me as a man. The reader

should remember, whatever may be the imperfections of the following pages, that they were composed by a youth, who, when he first commenced their publication, had only just completed his seventeenth year; who owed all he knew to his own enquiries and exertions; who was neither encouraged by friendship to display his literary talents, nor submitted his writings to its correction.

With respect to the observations and the characters introduced into the Saunterer, whatever may be imagined of the inexperience of their author, I think it necessary to declare, that I have advanced no opinion which I had not previously examined, have expressed no sentiment which I did not feel, nor described any character (except one) which I did not know. None of my reflections upon life or human nature were formed from books, but are such as were furnished by my own observation and

intimacy with the world. I did not think in order to write, but I wrote in order to express my feelings. When I produced the *Essay on Secrets*, a friend had betrayed me; when I described the miseries of Idleness, I had experienced them; when I drew the portrait of Maggot, I drew the portrait of a *Saunterer*, who advises others while he neglects himself; when I described the absurdities of common conversation, those absurdities had disgusted me.

That I was *partly* induced to the publication of these essays by the desire of literary fame, I most readily confess; but should my ambition be disappointed, I shall not look back without pleasure on the hours I spent in their production. They have sometimes relieved my mind from more weighty exertion, without suffering it to descend to less innocent amusements. Amid the censure or the ridicule of criticism I shall still remember with complacency, that

I have sometimes been preserved from idleness or folly by the composition of a Saunterer.

It is easy for those who can claim no superiority of genius, or talents, to conceal their weakness under the mask of reprehension. Some who may think my opinions or reasonings erroneous, will perhaps be willing to avoid the trouble of a more laboured argument, by exclaiming against my writings as puerile, and consequently foolish. Such censures as these, however, I shall always consider as the highest tributes of applause. My sentiments and style are neither worse nor better for the age or situation of their author, and he who affects to despise them because they were composed in circumstances unfavourable to literature, only shews his own imbecility. I am not ignorant that many who would have praised the SAUNTERER had it been given to the world as the production of an hoary philosopher, will be unwilling

to allow it any merit when it is discovered to be the production of an unbearded youth. The reasons which, notwithstanding these considerations, induced me to prefix my name, are of little importance to the world; but I have taken care not "to give a proof of my spirit at the expence of my understanding."

Gateshead, Sept. 1, 1805.

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TO THE
SECOND EDITION.

To this Edition is prefixed an account of the Author, and at the end a copious Index is added. All the Numbers, after the 44th, have been written since the first Edition, and some errors of the Press, &c. &c. have been corrected. A few notes will be found at the conclusion, which may either be read by themselves, or with the papers they are intended to explain.

Cambridge, June, 1806.