

**MEMOIR OF
WILLIAM ROSCOE**

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Memoir of William Roscoe by Thomas Stewart Traill

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THOMAS STEWART TRAILL

**MEMOIR OF
WILLIAM ROSCOE**

MEMOIR

OF

WILLIAM ROSCOE,

BY

DR. THOMAS STEWART TRAILL,

F.R.S.E. &c.

LIVERPOOL:

GEO. SMITH, WATTS AND CO.

MDCCLIII.



LIVERPOOL:
GEO. SMITH, WATTS AND CO.
PRINTERS.

TO THE
FRIENDS AND ADMIRERS OF
WILLIAM ROSCOE,
ASSEMBLED
TO COMMEMORATE THE
Centenary
OF HIS BIRTH,
THIS EDITION OF THE MEMOIR,
BY DR. TRAILL,
IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED.

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NOTICE.

THE Publishers of this little Work felt that they could not allow the celebration of the Centenary of the birth of ROSCON to take place without contributing their mite to testify their admiration of the man who shed so great a lustre on his native town, and, connected as their house was, (in however humble a degree,) with him, as the printers of one of his greatest works, they thought they could not better effect their purpose than by presenting his assembled friends and admirers, on the day of the Centenary Festival, with a reprint of Dr. Traill's elegant Memoir of the great Historian's life, originally read by that learned Professor at a meeting of the Liverpool Literary and Philosophical Society, in 1831, and afterwards published in Jameson's Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal, of 1832.

The Publishers beg to convey to Dr. Traill, and the proprietors of the above Journal, their thanks for their kind and ready permission to reprint this memoir.

19, TITHEBARN STREET,
LIVERPOOL, 8th March, 1833.

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MEMOIR
OF
WILLIAM ROSCOE.

"Clarorum Virorum facta moresque posteris tradere, antiquitas
instatum, ne nostris quidem temporibus, quanquam incuriosa
suorum, artes omisit, quotiens magna ac nobilis virtus
vicit ac supergressa est vitium, parvis magnaeque Civitati-
bus commune, ignorantiam recti et invidiam."—TACITUS *Vita*
Agricolae.

IN the sentence now quoted, Tacitus has justly indicated the true objects of biography; and, although in this humble notice of our late illustrious President*, I do not profess the intention of handing down his character and virtues to posterity (a task fortunately confided to abler hands), yet I feel satisfied that this attempt will not be displeasing to a Society of which he was at once the ornament and the head. As our age cannot be justly accused of want of curiosity respecting our contemporaries, it does not deserve to be characterized as ignorant or envious of merit. If, in tracing the career of Mr. Roscoe, we find him rising, by his own exertions, from obscurity to eminence, that age and that country have some claims to

* Liverpool Literary and Philosophical Society.