## THE STOIC: OR, MEMOIRS OF EURYSTHENES THE ATHENIAN

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The Stoic: Or, Memoirs of Eurysthenes the Athenian by Jane Kinderly Stanford & Caroline Bowles Southey

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JANE KINDERLY STANFORD & CAROLINE BOWLES SOUTHEY

# THE STOIC: OR, MEMOIRS OF EURYSTHENES THE ATHENIAN

Trieste

TO MY BROTHER,

## EDWARD JAMES SMITH,

I DEDICATE MY LITTLE BOOK,

WITH

MY AFFECTIONATE LOVE.

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JANE KINDERLEY STANFORD.

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### CHAPTER I.

BORN to affluence, and endowed with much mental and personal superiority, the hope and pride of a highly gifted father-the idol of a doating mother-the long and anxiously wished-for boy - I might be termed fortunate, and my destiny one of happiness. And so it might have been, perhaps, had not the power of my mind been so great, or had the sensibilities of my heart been less acute. As it was, my childhood was alternate sunshine and clouds, - my youth, a continual struggle between the intellect and the affections, --and my manhood, what was my manhood ? I will call it happy, for spite of all my trials, all my doubts, and all my fears, I was happy ;

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a beauteous star shed its soft light over my path, and guided my old age to bliss. That star is set, but the remembrance of its loveliness will never go from my mind; I too must soon fellow it. Oh! may I indeed follow it to that Heaven it pointed out to me!

I was born in the eightieth year of the Christian Æra. Of my earliest years I remember but little. What was life to me then? A never-ending sunbeam, in which I basked contentedly and joyfally, enjoying the present moment without thinking of the next. And I had cause to be happy. Wealth procured me every reasonable luxury, and pain had never racked my body. If I had childish vexations (and what child has not?) I wept over them; but the memory of them passed away as the tear dried on my cheek.

Our family ranked among the noblest, as well as the wealthiest of Athens. My grandfather partook of the love for a country life, which was so eminently characteristic of a Grecian; and my father, I believe, inherited

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this feeling; for although his habits of life daily took him to the city, our residence was in the country.

Nor was it surprising that it should be so; for there was nothing in Athens which could tempt a man of independence and wealth to make it his home. The streets were strikingly irregular; the city badly provided with water, and the houses with a very few exceptions, The spaces of ground, caused by the mean. burning or pulling down of houses, which had been inhabited by those citizens accused at various periods of high treason, added very much to the deformity of the city; this spoliation, if I may so term it, was committed by order of the government, and it was not permitted to rebuild on the spot rendered execrable by the crime of the former possessor. The Areopagus also, which took to itself the immediate inspection of buildings, was a declared enemy to every innovation of the civil architecture; added to which, if a house were decorated above the rest, or even carried one story higher, a crowd of jealous observers suspected that this ostentation hid a pride

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