

**MY LIFE. IN TWO
VOLUMES. VOL. I**

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My Life. In Two Volumes. Vol. I by William Hamilton Maxwell

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WILLIAM HAMILTON MAXWELL

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William

MY LIFE.

BY THE AUTHOR OF

"STORIES OF WATERLOO," "WILD SPORTS OF THE WEST."

&c. &c. &c.

Sir Anthony.—Come here, sirrah! who the devil are you!
Capt. Absolute.—Faith! sir, I'm not quite clear myself: but I'll en-
deavour to recollect.

The Rascal.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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INTRODUCTION.

Egeon.—Why look you strange on me? You know me well.

Ant. E.—I never saw you in my life till now.

Comedy of Errors.

I HAD been delicate from infancy—and the enervating effects of an unhealthy climate obliged me to retire upon half-pay, and quit Ceylon for England, to try if native air would restore a shattered constitution. I came to London for medical advice; and while my physician was anxious that I should continue immediately under his eye, he recommended me, for amusement and exercise, to make frequent excursions around the British capital.

No advice could be more congenial to "a truant disposition." I, who had been buffeted about the world from my boyhood, willingly became a roamer after health; and in the vicinity of the metropolis there were few spots unvisited in the course of my valetudinary wanderings.

Every suburban retirement—every scene of holiday dissipation—every signboard which a cockney treasures in the tablet of his memory, is familiar to me. I have spent weeks upon the river and the road, become resident in steam-boats and stages, witnessed many an adventure, consorted with strange companions, and become extensively acquainted with the whole family of man.

It was a sultry day, and I was sitting in the bay-window of the Pier Hotel at Gravesend, contemplating the unceasing bustle that Father Thames presented. The steamer was to return to town at five, and I rang the bell to order dinner, and thus fill up an interval of two mortal hours. The gentleman of the napkin appeared, produced his *carte*, and eulogized the contents of the larder,—for there, as he averred, every thing eatable in August would be found. He added, that dinner was just being served at the *table d'hôte* below; and probably, rather than dine *tout seul*, I would prefer uniting myself to the party. Undoubtedly I would. I seized my hat and cane, and following as true a descendant of Hal's "Francis,"

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