





BOONE FIGHTING INDIANS

AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY.

DANIEL BOONE



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DANIEL BOONE

THE PIONEER OF KENTUCKY.

A Biography.

BY

GEORGE CANNING HILL.

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P R E F A C E .

THE author has designed the present series of Biographies more particularly for the young. And in pursuing his original plan along to its termination, he has set before himself the following objects, to which he invites the reader's attention :

To furnish from the pages of the world's history a few examples of true manhood, lofty purpose, and persevering effort, such as may be safely held up either for the admiration or emulation of the youth of the present day ;

To clear away, in his treatment of these subjects, whatever mistiness and mustiness may have accumulated with time about them, presenting to the mental vision fresh and living pictures, that shall seem to be clothed with naturalness, and energy, and vitality ;

To offer no less instruction to the minds, than pleasure to the imaginations of the many for whom he has taken it in hand to write ;

And, more especially, perhaps, to familiarize the youth

of our day with those striking and manly characters, that have long ago made their mark, deep and lasting, on the history and fortunes of the AMERICAN CONTINENT.

The deeds of these men, it is true, are to be found abundantly recorded in Histories; but they lie so scattered along their ten thousand pages, and are so intermixed with the voluminous records of other matters, as to be practically out of the reach of the *younger* portion of readers, and so of the very ones for whom this series has been undertaken. These want only *pictures of actual life*; and, if the author shall, in any due degree, succeed even in sketching interesting *outlines*, he will feel that he is answering the very purpose that has long lain unperformed within his heart.

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DANIEL BOONE.

CHAPTER I.

HIS EARLY DAYS.

LIFE in the woods is a romance from beginning to end. The mind delights to dwell upon the freedom, the beauty, the trials, and even the hazards of such a life, and thinks of it, in contrast with the set forms and customs of civilization, as something so fresh that it raises the imagination to a pitch of the most pleasurable excitement.

There are very few boys who have not, at one time or another in their lives, felt the secret but strong impulse to go to sea, or to play at a game of Selkirk solitude in the woods. Daniel Webster used to say to his friends when assembled on his lawn at Marshfield, in the summer evenings, that the two objects in creation which chiefly inspired sentiments of grandeur within his breast, were the stars and the sea; he might well have added to

these, the forest, than which, in its remote and awful solitudes, nothing in all the world can be named which so imposes lofty and solemn thoughts upon the soul.

We all love nature so much, even those of us who were never nursed upon her bosom. We love the streams, the lawns, the rocks, the trees, the dense masses of foliage, and even the driving snows and deluging rains. That love is born with us; and we cannot altogether outroot it, if we would. The birds and beasts; the grove and river; mountain and waterfall; blue sky and black cloud freighted with thunder; sunsets and sunrisings; the winds that roar and howl themselves hoarse in winter, and the balmy breezes that blow up through the open windows of the south in summer; every one of these is able to strike a chord of sympathy in the human breast, and waken the heart to a living ecstasy.

There have been many men in the world who loved the silence and solitudes of nature, but none, certainly, who pursued the enjoyments they offer with such singleness of heart as the famous Daniel Boone, the pioneer of Kentucky. He was a marked man from the start. Such true and simple children of nature are so rare as to attract a great deal of

attention on all sides. Their speech is not the speech of the world ; their manners are not those of common men ; and their lives are crowded with deeds of daring, whose narration forms the most attractive of romances. Old and young delight to read of the wonderful encounters with Indians and wild beasts ; the narrow escape from the perils of flood and forest ; the hardy and prolonged endurance, and the steady perseverance and resolution. These are stories of which the young, especially, never tire. They are fresh forever.

It requires peculiar qualities to make a good pioneer. We who enjoy what a heroic ancestry won for us by their own sufferings and sacrifices, know little, and think less, of the cost at which all these things were secured. Some of those noble men marched forth to beat down oppression, as it sought to draw its bands closer and closer around them ; and some silently went out into the wilderness, resolved to subdue even nature herself to their far-reaching purposes. But large as was their comprehension, they could not then take into their vision the half of the grand picture which was so soon to unroll, like a panorama, before the gaze of an astonished world.

The name of Daniel Boone, as one of the pio-

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