

INTRODUCTION.

THE Books described in the following Catalogue, were part of the Library of the late WILLIAM MACKENZIE, Esq. of Philadelphia, the city of his birth and residence, during a life extended beyond seventy years, and almost exclusively devoted to literary pursuits.

He was born on the 23d of July, 1758, received his education at the College and Academy of Philadelphia, and then entered the counting house of the late JOHN ROSS, Esquire, one of the most eminent Merchants of that City; where he acquired an accurate and extensive knowledge of mercantile affairs, with reputation to himself and the esteem of that highly respectable gentleman, but being easy in his circumstances, and fond of reading and retirement, he indulged himself in literary pursuits, and gradually accumulated the collection of rare and valuable books, now bequeathed to the Philadelphia and Loganian Libraries, with many others, the greater part of which have since been purchased from his Executors for those Institutions.

The Reverend Doctor JAMES ABERCROMBIE, who was one of his few intimate friends, in speaking of him, says "he believes he never had an enemy, at least, from the purity of his principles and correctness of his conduct, I am sure he never deserved one."

His constitution, though vigorous, was not robust, his manners plain and conciliatory, his hand and his purse were ever open and ready to relieve individual and domestic distress, and contribute to public requisitions; in short, in every relation which he bore to society, he exhibited a truly estimable and exemplary character; as a son, dutiful, affectionate and attentive; as a man, benevolent, liberal, and honest; as a citizen, patriotic, generous, and amiable; as a friend, firm, sincere, and candid; as a companion, intelligent, entertaining, and courteous. He was an accomplished Belles Lettres and classical scholar, and the tenor of his life was an uniform illustration of his principles and the benevolence of his heart; he died on the 30th of July, 1828, having by his last will and testament made the following bequests; in carrying which into effect and disposing of his remaining books, his Executors, THOMAS MITCHELL, GEORGE S. SAVERY, and JUDAH DOBSON, have manifested the same liberality and regard to the two Institutions, which influenced the testator in making those bequests. They are contained in the following Extract from his will, viz:—

"I give and bequeath to the Library Company of Philadelphia, their successors and assigns forever, five hundred volumes to be chosen by the Directors thereof from my English books, published since the beginning of the eighteenth century; and I give and bequeath to the Library Company of Philadelphia aforesaid, their successors and assigns forever, in trust for the increase of the Loganian Library, and subject to the direction of the trustees thereof, all my books printed before the beginning of the eighteenth century, and eight hundred volumes more to be chosen by the said trustees from my French books, and Latin books, printed since the beginning of the eighteenth century.

