

## PROFESSOR ADAM “PRESERVED DEATH” FERGUSON



“NARRATIVE HISTORY” AMOUNTS TO FABULATION,  
THE REAL STUFF BEING MERE CHRONOLOGY



**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

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**1723**

July 1 (June 20, Old Style): [Adam Ferguson](#) (or, Ferguson of Raith) was born at Logierait in Atholl, Perthshire, [Scotland](#). He would be educated at Perth grammar school and then at the University of St. Andrews.



**NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT**



1745

[Adam Ferguson](#) gained appointment as Deputy Chaplain of the 43d (afterwards the 42d) regiment, the Black Watch Regiment of Highlanders, licence to preach being granted by special dispensation despite his not having undergone the requisite six years of theological study (they simply had a bad need for someone who understood Gaelic).

SCOTLAND

Here, just so you're not missing anything, is the uniform of this Black Watch Regiment of Highlanders:



“Memorial touching the settlement of the second minister’s charge at Brechin, on the part of the magistrates and town-council of Brechin, a great majority of the heritors, and the other callers of [Mr James Fordyce](#), preacher of the gospel, his Majesty’s presentee. 1745.”

[HDT](#)[WHAT?](#)[INDEX](#)

## PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON

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May 11, Saturday (Old Style): As part of the War of the Austrian Succession, the Duke of Cumberland, William Augustus, son of King George II of England, was attempting to relieve a French siege at Tournai, a town in Flanders. On this day the French siege army of 52,000 under the marshal Maurice, Count de Saxe, defended itself from fortified positions against about 50,000 English, Hanoverians, Dutch, and Austrians at Fontenoy near Tournai. That is to say, this was the forces of the Pragmatic Allies –comprising mainly Dutch, British, and Hanoverian troops under the nominal command of the Duke of Cumberland– versus King Louis XV’s forces in the Low Countries.

War was different back then: for instance, an English Colonel, Lord Charles Hay, actually rode out between the lines on his horse, while the troops of the Pragmatic Allied were dressing ranks, to offer a toast and three cheers for the French and, [Voltaire](#) would claim, invite the French to fire first. Well, actually war was not all that different back then: as soon as this dashing dude had gotten back to safety he gave a signal, and the English soldiers discharged a volley toward the French fortifications.



What we know for sure in all these heroics and alleged heroics is that in outcome, the French losses amounted to merely about 7,500 human beings. Count de Saxe had positioned his troops in a strong defensive position and the Pragmatic Allies had kept on unpragmatically attempting direct frontal assault after direct frontal



**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

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assault. The result needs to be seen as a foregone conclusion since, as military men have always understood all too well, you've gotta have at least three-to-one force superiority in order to have a prayer of succeeding in any frontal assault without surprise against any prepared position. On the side of the Pragmatic Allies the situation quickly became rather sanguine, and whatever remained of Cumberland's army would need to fall back toward Brussels — leaving the Frenchies and the poppies in possession of all the fields of Flanders.

The Black Watch Regiment of Highlanders sustained heavy casualties. Perhaps Deputy Chaplain [Adam Ferguson](#) fought in the ranks of this regiment throughout the day and refused to leave the field though ordered to do so by his colonel, or perhaps he didn't (this regiment's next big day for casualties would come on the American continent, at the Battle of Ticonderoga in 1758).

**LIFE IS LIVED FORWARD BUT UNDERSTOOD BACKWARD?  
— NO, THAT'S GIVING TOO MUCH TO THE HISTORIAN'S STORIES.  
LIFE ISN'T TO BE UNDERSTOOD EITHER FORWARD OR BACKWARD.**



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1746

In this year the English figured out how to facilitate betting on boxing matches. They took a clue from the science of horse handicapping, and began to classify their boxers according to weight: lightweights, versus middleweights, versus heavyweights.

Deputy Chaplain [Adam Ferguson](#) was made principal chaplain of the Black Watch Regiment.

"Get out there and kill somebody the way Christ would want you to."



THE FUTURE IS MOST READILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT





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**1754**

Disappointed, after nine years of trying, with the career prospects of chaplaining, [Adam Ferguson](#) left the Black Watch Regiment to devote himself to literary pursuits in Leipzig.

At the age of 23 the Scotsman William Aiton emigrated to England and was given a job by Philip Miller, in the Chelsea Physic Garden.

**BOTANIZING**

**THE FUTURE CAN BE EASILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT**







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**1756**

[Adam Ferguson](#)'s REFLECTIONS PREVIOUS TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MILITIA.

**Do I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? GOOD.**





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**1757**

January: [Adam Ferguson](#) returned from Leipzig to Edinburgh and succeeded [David Hume](#) as librarian to the Faculty of Advocates — but would soon relinquish this office upon being appointed as a tutor in the family of the Earl of Bute.



**CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT**



**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

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**1759**

[Adam Ferguson](#) became Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh.



**SCOTLAND**



**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

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**1764**

Professor Adam Ferguson transferred from the chair of Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh to the chair of Pneumatics (by which was meant, “mental philosophy”) and Moral Philosophy.



**SCOTLAND**



PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON

PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON

1767

Against [David Hume](#)'s advice, [Professor Adam Ferguson](#) prepared AN ESSAY ON THE HISTORY OF CIVIL SOCIETY (Edinburgh: A. Millar & T. Caddel [*sic*], London). It was well received and would be translated into several European languages.

[William Guthrie](#) had demonstrated to his own satisfaction, by the 10th and final volume of his A GENERAL HISTORY OF [SCOTLAND](#) FROM THE EARLIEST ACCOUNTS TO THE PRESENT TIME (Printed for the author by A. Hamilton; sold by Robinson and Roberts), that the Irish had derived from Scotland.

GUTHRIE'S SCOTLAND, I

GUTHRIE'S SCOTLAND, II

GUTHRIE'S SCOTLAND, III

GUTHRIE'S SCOTLAND, IV

GUTHRIE'S SCOTLAND, V

GUTHRIE'S SCOTLAND, VI

GUTHRIE'S SCOTLAND, VII

GUTHRIE'S SCOTLAND, VIII

GUTHRIE'S SCOTLAND, IX

GUTHRIE'S SCOTLAND, X

Also, in this year, the 12th and final volume of Guthrie's A GENERAL HISTORY OF THE WORLD, FROM THE CREATION TO THE PRESENT TIME, BY WILLIAM GUTHRIE, ESQ., JOHN GRAY, ESQ., AND OTHERS, EMINENT IN THIS BRANCH OF LITERATURE, that he had initiated in 1764.

WHAT I'M WRITING IS TRUE BUT NEVER MIND  
YOU CAN ALWAYS LIE TO YOURSELF



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**1768**

[Professor Adam Ferguson](#)'s AN ESSAY ON THE HISTORY OF CIVIL SOCIETY. THE SECOND EDITION, CORRECTED (London: Printed for A. Millar and T. Cadell ..., and A. Kincaid and J. Bell, Edinburgh).

Also during this year, his AN ESSAY ON THE HISTORY OF CIVIL SOCIETY. THE THIRD EDITION, CORRECTED (London: Printed for A. Millar and T. Cadell, and A. Kincaid and J. Bell, Edinburgh).

**SCOTLAND**



**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

**1769**

[Professor Adam Ferguson](#)'s INSTITUTES OF MORAL PHILOSOPHY: FOR THE USE OF STUDENTS IN THE COLLEGE OF EDINBURGH (Edinburgh: Printed for A. Kincaid & J. Bell).

After an elementary education at Duns and the Coldstream grammar school, [George Heriot](#) matriculated at the Edinburgh Royal High School, where he would receive a conventional classical education.

**SCOTLAND**



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**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

**1773**

[Professor Adam Ferguson](#)'s INSTITUTES OF MORAL PHILOSOPHY, FOR THE USE OF STUDENTS IN THE COLLEGE OF EDINBURGH. THE 2D ED. REV. AND CORR (Edinburgh: A. Kincaid & W. Creech and J. Bell; sold in London by S. Crowder [etc]).

Also during this year, his AN ESSAY ON THE HISTORY OF CIVIL SOCIETY. THE FOURTH EDITION, REVISED AND CORRECTED (London: Printed for T. Caddel [sic] and A. Kincaid, W. Creech, and J. Bell, Edinburgh).

**SCOTLAND**





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**1775**

In approximately this year [Professor Adam Ferguson](#) travelled again on the Continent, meeting [Voltaire](#).



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**1776**

Five-year-old [Walter Scott](#), who had been at a spa undergoing treatment for his polio-injured leg, was taken back to Sandy Knowe and there learned to ride horseback.

While [Alexander Wilson](#) was about ten years of age and was known as “Sandy,” his mother died and his father quickly remarried.

[Professor Adam Ferguson](#)’s membership of The Poker Club was recorded in its Minute Book. He prepared an anonymous pamphlet on the American Revolution, in opposition to Dr Richard Price’s OBSERVATIONS ON THE NATURE OF CIVIL LIBERTY, &C (London: Printed for G. Kearsley ...), and in this pamphlet sympathized with the attitude being taken by the British legislature.

While [James Hogg](#) was a child of six, his father, a tenant farmer, became bankrupt. There would be no more schooling for him. He was to spend the balance of his childhood in service on various farms. Between the age of 6 and the age of 15, he would later claim, he neither had any opportunity to read, or to write.

**SCOTLAND**



**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

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**1778**

At the age of seven [Walter Scott](#) was sent to the Royal High School of Edinburgh, where he would become a competent Latinist.

The [skating](#) club of Edinburgh, founded in 1642, had acquired documented membership requirements. Candidates, who had to be male and had to be either of the nobility or from of excellent family, needed to demonstrate a complete circle on either foot and then jump over first one, then two, then three hats placed on the ice. Skating in pairs was common among these men.

(Of course, this was something to which poor little Walter –with his polio-shrunken right leg– would never be able to aspire. His sport would need to be horseback riding.)

[Professor Adam Ferguson](#) of the University of Edinburgh was appointed secretary to the Carlisle commission which endeavoured, but without success, to negotiate an arrangement with the revolted colonies.



**SCOTLAND**



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**1783**

[Professor Adam Ferguson](#)'s THE HISTORY OF THE PROGRESS AND TERMINATION OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC (London: Printed for W. Strahan, T. Cadell ..., and W. Creech, in Edinburgh). Also during this year, his *ESSAI SUR L'HISTOIRE DE LA SOCIÉTÉ CIVILE*. (Paris: La veuve Desaint. Translated by Claude François Bergier and Alexandre Joseph Meunier).



**THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, I**

**THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, II**

**THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, III**

**THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, IV**

**THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, V**

The [Reverend Professor Hugh Blair, D.D.](#) published a compilation of 47 of the lectures he had delivered to students at the University of Edinburgh, LECTURES ON RHETORIC AND BELLES LETTRES. The two volumes of this encompassed more than 1,000 pages. For this immensely popular work, he would receive the magnificent sum of £1,500.



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SCOTLAND

## THE LECTURES ABRIDGED

THE MAINE WOODS: At four o'clock the next morning, in the dark, and still in the rain, we pursued our journey. Close to the academy in this town they have erected a sort of gallows for the pupils to practice on. I thought that they might as well hang at once all who need to go through such exercises in so new a country, where there is nothing to hinder their living an out-door life. Better omit Blair, and take the air.

HUGH BLAIR

Note well that although [Henry Thoreau](#) would opinion that we might “better omit” the [Reverend Professor Blair, D.D.](#) of the University of Edinburgh, and all his rhetoric lectures and all his belles lettres, and get outdoors and get ourselves some air, we know that he would also included in that dismissable category of historicizing the sort of history writing practiced by [Professor Ferguson](#) of that institution — to wit the above five volumes memorializing the various deeds and dastardly misdeeds of the Roman republic. For he would confide to his journal on September 24, 1843, that this sort of thingie **weighed upon his spirit**. He compared this sort of thingie to the sort of museum he had visited that had turned out to amount to nothing but –and his phrase is telling– “preserved death.”

What is wrong with this stuff is it amounts to **preserved death**. (Oh, come on, Henry, level with us, tell us what you *really* think. :-)



**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

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**1785**

Weary of teaching, [Professor Adam Ferguson](#) resigned his professorship at the University of Edinburgh and devoted himself to the revision of his lectures, which he would publish in 1792 as PRINCIPLES OF MORAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCE.

[Dugald Stewart](#) took his place as Professor of Moral Philosophy.

**SCOTLAND**





**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

**1792**

[Adam Ferguson](#)'s PRINCIPLES OF MORAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCE: BEING CHIEFLY A RETROSPECT OF LECTURES DELIVERED IN THE COLLEGE OF EDINBURGH (Edinburgh: Printed for A. Strahan and T. Cadell, London; and W. Creech, Edinburgh).

**SCOTLAND**





PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON

PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON

1793

In his 70th year [Adam Ferguson](#), intending to prepare a revised edition of his HISTORY OF THE PROGRESS AND TERMINATION OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, visited Italy and some of the principal cities of Europe, where he was received with honor by various learned societies — all of which he would list on his new title page.<sup>1</sup>



1. You know who I am? You know who I am? Hot damn, I have been asked to be a member of the Royal Academy at Berlin! Hot damn, I have also been asked to be a member of the Royal Academy at Florence! Hot damn, I have also been asked to be a member of the Etruscan Society of Antiquaries at Cortona! Oh, by the way, I have also been asked to be a member of the *Pontificia Accademia degli Arcadi* at Rome (are you impressed yet?).





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**1795**

Henceforward [Adam Ferguson](#) would reside successively at the castle of Neidpath near Peebles,



at Hallyards Farm on the Manor Water,





**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

and at St. Andrews on the northeast coast of the Fife peninsula of [Scotland](#).



The [Reverend James Fordyce, D.D.](#)'s ADDRESSES TO YOUNG MEN (2d edition, two volumes in one, Manning & Loring, 287 pages). This edition would be in the personal library of Henry Thoreau with, in it, the autograph of John Thoreau, Sr.<sup>2</sup>

**ADDRESSES TO YOUNG MEN, I**

**ADDRESSES TO YOUNG MEN, II**

Posthumous publication, under the title ESSAYS ON PHILOSOPHICAL<sup>3</sup> SUBJECTS, of [Adam Smith](#)'s writings on the topics in the history of science and philosophy, made up of a history of astronomy, a history of ancient physics, and a history of the ancient logics and metaphysics

For it may be observed, that in all Polytheistic religions, among savages, as well as in the early ages of heathen antiquity, it is the irregular events of nature only that are ascribed to the agency and power of the gods. Fire burns, and water refreshes; heavy bodies descend, and lighter substances fly upwards, by the necessity of their own nature; nor was the invisible hand of Jupiter every apprehended to be employed in those matters.

2. Most unfortunately, Google Books has not as yet scanned this 1795 edition that had belonged to Father John. The closest I can come to it right now, electronically, is the 1777 edition in two volumes. I have no idea whether this is an exact match, or not.

3. Note well that prior to the year 1839, a term such as "scientist" had not been imagined.



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**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

**1799**

[Adam Ferguson](#)'s THE HISTORY OF THE PROGRESS AND TERMINATION OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC. NEW ED.  
REV. AND CORR. (Edinburgh: Bell & Bradfute).



**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

**1800**



[Adam Ferguson](#)'s INSTITUTES OF MORAL PHILOSOPHY. A NEW ED., ENL. (Basil: Printed by J. Decker).



**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

**1809**



[Adam Ferguson](#)'s AN ESSAY ON THE HISTORY OF CIVIL SOCIETY (7th ed. Boston: Hastings, Etheridge and Bliss).





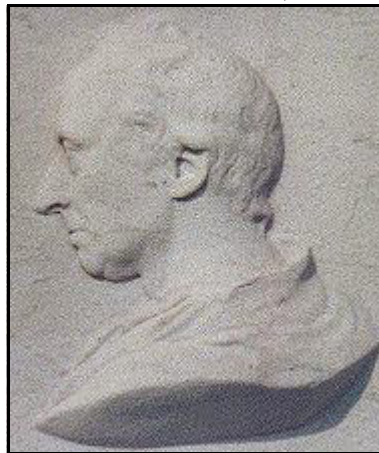
**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

**1813**



[Professor Adam Ferguson](#) LL.D., F.R.S.E. Late Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh; member of the Royal Academy at Berlin, of the Royal Academy at Florence, of the Etruscan Society of Antiquaries at Cortona, and of the Arcadia at Rome's THE HISTORY OF THE PROGRESS AND TERMINATION OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC. A NEW EDITION, IN FIVE VOLUMES. REVISED AND CORRECTED. WITH MAPS (Edinburgh: Printed for Bell & Bradfute. Sold by F.C. & J. Rivington, Cadell & Davies, Longman & Co. J. Murray, T. Hamilton, and T. Underwood, London).



**THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, I**

**THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, II**

**THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, III**

**THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, IV**

**THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, V**





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PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON

1816



February 22, Thursday: [Adam Ferguson](#) died at St. Andrews.

Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

*5th day 22nd of 2nd M 1816 / Last evening my dear H inform'd me that one of her breasts was Swollen & painful - This concern has like Aarons sepent swallowed all the rest what it will prove to be remains for time to prove, at any rate it has greatly distressed my feelings this Day  
At Meeting all silent. - In the Preparative The Overseers reported Jacob Sherman who has married out of the order of Society.—*

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS



**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

**1827**



Another edition of [Adam Ferguson](#)'s THE HISTORY OF THE PROGRESS AND TERMINATION OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC (London: Jones & Co.).



(Just because [Henry David Thoreau](#) considers something “preserved death” doesn’t mean it isn’t going to sell like hotcakes.)



PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON

PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON

1836

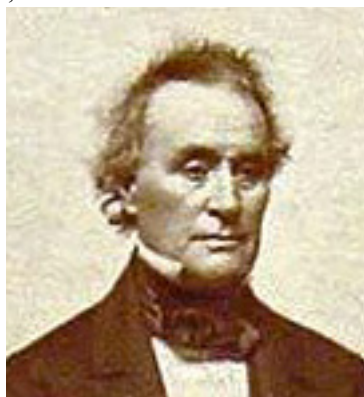
→ September 12, Monday: A visit by [Frédéric François Chopin](#) to [Robert Schumann](#) on this day inspired Schumann to complete his “Etudes symphoniques.” Chopin, Schumann, and Clara Wieck spent most of the day at the piano.

[David Henry Thoreau](#) was back at [Harvard College](#), for his Senior year, enrolling for German, Italian, English, natural philosophy, intellectual philosophy, rhetoric, and criticism. At this point or shortly afterward he changed from “David Henry” to “Henry David.” His current assignment was an essay on the topic “Whether the Cultivation of the Imagination Conduce to the Happiness of the Individual.” He enrolled in a course in intellectual philosophy which would require all three of his remaining college terms for its completion. Among the works which he would be examining would be [John Locke](#)’s AN ESSAY CONCERNING THE HUMAN UNDERSTANDING, Say’s POLITICAL ECONOMY, and Story’s COMMENTARIES ON THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES. This time he was to occupy 23 Hollis Hall.

THOREAU RESIDENCES

## HUMAN UNDERSTANDING

[Thoreau](#) supplemented his borrowings from the [Harvard Library](#) by checking out, from the library of the “[Institute of 1770](#),” the 5th of the ten volumes of the 1st Series of the Reverend [Jared Sparks](#)’s THE LIBRARY OF AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY (Boston and London, 1836-1839), the one about the Reverend John Eliot written by the Reverend Convers Francis,<sup>4</sup>



LIBRARY OF AM. BIOG. V

*Jared Sparks*

the 1st of the five volumes of [Professor Adam Ferguson](#)’s THE HISTORY OF THE PROGRESS AND TERMINATION

4. In 1849 the Reverend Sparks would give over the editing of this series of American biographies in order to become the President of Harvard College — and once in that office he would grant Thoreau a letter by which this former student might continue to check out books from Harvard Library.



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**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC (1773, new edition Edinburgh, 1813),



## THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, I

the 1st of the four volumes of THE ILIAD AND ODYSSEY OF [HOMER](#), TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH BLANK VERSE BY THE LATE [WILLIAM COWPER](#), ESQ. (Boston: Printed and published by Joseph T. Buckingham, 1814),





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and the 1st and 3d of the three volumes of the Reverend Henry Stebbing (1799-1883)'s LIVES OF THE ITALIAN POETS (London, 1832). (Thoreau would renew the Ferguson, Cowper, and 3rd Stebbing volumes.)







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**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**



October 13, Thursday: Before this date [David Henry Thoreau](#) had renewed Volume I of [Professor Adam Ferguson](#)'s THE HISTORY OF THE PROGRESS AND TERMINATION OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC from the library of the "[Institute of 1770.](#)"

## THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, I

On this day he obtained from that source the 2d volume of John Hoole's translation of Torquato Tasso's JERUSALEM DELIVERED (London, 1764, 1783, 1797; Exeter, New Hampshire: 1810).

He also checked out, from the [Harvard Library](#), Volume 9 of the [The North American Review](#), containing the June and September issues of 1819:

- [The North American Review](#). / Volume 9, Issue 24, miscellaneous front pages (pp. i-iv)
- Hogg's WORKS (pp. 1-23)
- [Bigelow](#)'s AMERICAN MEDICAL BOTANY (pp. 23-26)
- Milman's SAMOR (pp. 26-36)
- Dubois' MANNERS AND CUSTOMS OF INDIA (pp. 36-58)
- Brown's LIFE AND WRITINGS (pp. 58-77)
- Lambrechtsen's NEW NETHERLANDS (pp. 77-92)
- Pickering on Greek Pronunciation (pp. 92-113)
- Gorham's ELEMENTS OF CHEMICAL SCIENCE (pp. 113-135)
- Hall's TRAVELS IN [CANADA](#) AND THE UNITED STATES (pp. 135-155)
- [John Gotlieb Ernestus Heckewelder](#)'s INDIAN HISTORY, MANNERS AND CUSTOMS (pp. 155-179)
- Duponceau and Heckewelder on the Languages of the American Indians (pp. 179-188)
- School Education (pp. 188-192)
- Translation of Wytttenbach's Preface to the *SELECTA PRINCIPIUM HISTORICORUM* (pp. 192-206)
- Essay on Happy Temperament (pp. 206-211)
- Quarterly List of New Publications (pp. 211-216)
- Seybert's STATISTICAL ANNALS (pp. 217-240)
- State of Learning in the United States (pp. 240-260)
- Rambles in Italy: –Foreign Travel (pp. 260-276)
- Montgomery's POEMS (pp. 276-288)
- Buxton on PRISONS: –PREVENTION OF CRIMES (pp. 288-322)
- SKETCH BOOK I. II. (pp. 322-356)
- Sanford's HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES (pp. 356-376)
- Novanglus and Massachusettensis – ESSAYS ON THE CONTROVERSY BETWEEN G. BRITAIN AND HER COLONIES (pp. 376-412)
- Translation of Wytttenbach's Preface to the *SELECTA PRINCIPIUM HISTORICORUM* (pp. 412-426)
- Trisyllabic feet in Iambic verse (pp. 426-432)
- Quarterly List of New Publications (pp. 432-436)



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THE  
NORTH AMERICAN  
REVIEW.

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VOL. XLII.

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BOSTON:  
CHARLES BOWEN, 141 WASHINGTON STREET.

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1836.





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PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON



October 24, Monday: [David Henry Thoreau](#) supplemented his borrowings from the [Harvard Library](#) by checking out, from the library of the "[Institute of 1770.](#)" the 2d volume of the Reverend Henry Stebbing (1799-1883)'s LIVES OF THE ITALIAN POETS (London, 1832) and the 2d of the five volumes of [Professor Adam Ferguson](#)'s THE HISTORY OF THE PROGRESS AND TERMINATION OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC (1773, new edition Edinburgh, 1813).



## THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, II

This volume covers the period up to [Marcus Tullius Cicero](#)'s exile to Thessalonica in 58 BCE.

Our guy would comment later of the catacombs full of preserved death, of our museums full of stuffed animals, and of such history textbooks stuffed full with irrelevant facts, that:



"I hate museums, there is nothing so weighs upon the spirits. They are catacombs of nature. They are preserved death. One green bud of Spring one willow catkin, one faint trill from some migrating sparrow, might set the world on its legs again.

I know not whether I muse most at the bodies stuffed with cotton and sawdust – or those stuffed with bowels and fleshy fibre.

The life that is in a single green weed is of more worth than all this death. They are very much like the written history of the world – and I read Rollin and Ferguson with the same feeling."

–JOURNAL; September 24, 1843





**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

It had been in 1827 that the English chemist and apothecary John Walker had discovered that by coating the end of a stick with antimony sulfide, potassium chlorate, gum, and starch and then allowing the lump of compound to dry, that stick could later be used to light a fire, via friction. However, instead of patenting this new device, which he termed the “Congreve” after the prevailing cheap military rocket, Walker sold the information about how to fabricate the device. That’s not a tactic that works in capitalism. The London druggist Samuel Jones filed for a patent on the “Lucifer,” created through a direct use of Walker’s instructions, and on this date the patent was granted. So at this point it was Walker who had had the idea but Jones who owned Walker’s idea. It was going to be Jones, the dude who knew how to make the system work for him, who would be the one to get filthy rich (and, generations of wage-slave factory laborers would be contracting a condition known as “phossy jaw” from working without protection in the midst of all that phosphorus).

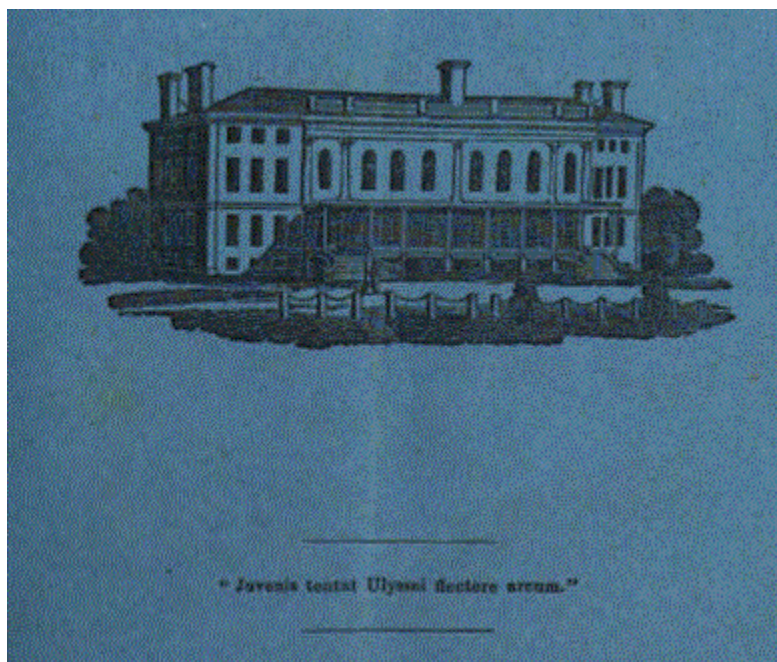
Gioachino Rossini left Paris for [Italy](#). He would not move back to the French capital for 19 years.

A soiree to celebrate their recent return from Switzerland took place at the Paris apartment of Franz Liszt and his mistress Marie d’Agoult. Among the guests were [Frédéric François Chopin](#) and Aurore Dupin Dudevant (George Sand), who were meeting for the first time (it had been Sand who had repeatedly asked Liszt to arrange the meeting, and as was her wont, she appeared in men’s clothing). [Chopin](#) found Sand “repulsive” while Sand found Chopin “noble.”

Alonzo Dwight Phillips of Springfield, Massachusetts received a patent for friction matches.



November: The current issue of [Harvard College](#)’s undergraduate subscription literary magazine, the HARVARDIANA:



**HARVARDIANA**



- “There is A Grief”; I. II. To Her who can Understand Them



**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

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- “Trifles Light as Air” – No. I; The Novice, by Ashley Vernon
- A Soporific, by H.
- Amadon to Falconer, by C. Orville Amadon, Mr. Buckingham Falconer
- I IYPOATOL – No. III, by Ashley Vernon
- Imprimatur, by B.F.; No. I. Dickius and Bobbaeus. Dickius. Bobbaeus. Dickius. Bobbaeus. Dickius. Bobbaeus
- Larache to his Cousin
- Middleton Scribblings; The Widow’s Son, a Sketch. – No. II. The Funeral – West Point – Home Again. I. II. III. by Philip Middleton

By this month [David Henry Thoreau](#) had turned in his essay assignment on the topic “The History of the Progress and Termination of the Roman Republic, by [Adam Ferguson](#), LL.D.F.R.S.E.”<sup>5</sup>

Our author compares his labor to that of a limner, “who,” says he, “attempting to restore the portrait of a person deceased, is furnished only with fragments of sculpture, or shreds of canvass, bearing the form and outline of some feature, the tint of complexion, or color of eyes and hair, and who is reduced, where the original is wanting to put up with a copy though by an inferior hand; fortunate, if in all these taken together, the features and character he is in search of can be made to appear.” But in this instance the features are of so striking a cast, and have been moulded by such masterly hands, that the merest dauber may restore the portrait, though fragments of sculpture, or shreds of canvass alone remain.

The casual observer will be charmed with the brilliancy of the coloring, and if the laws of perspective are carefully observed, and life and expression given to the portrait, he is satisfied; he scans with no small degree of interest the venerable busts, the soiled and dusty paintings that adorn our libraries and museums – the random efforts of departed genius, but cares not who the artist was, or under what circumstances the piece was painted. Not so with the virtuoso; if the portrait is a restored one he must know what remained to guide the painter, what was the character of the individual represented, that he may judge of the merits of the piece.

Now I shall follow this last example, and endeavor to present a concise view of the authorities on which a history of the Roman Republic must be founded.

The earliest memorials of what passed at Rome, still extant, are to be found in the compilations of Dionysius of Halicarnassus, Livy, Plutarch, and others, who lived after the Republic itself was no more. Dionysius was a Greek, who visited Rome soon after the sovereignty of the Empire devolved on Octavius, and remaining there 20 yrs[.], wrote no less than 20 vols[.], continuing his narration from the earliest tradition of any Roman Story, down to the first Punic war. Of these, but 11 ending

5. The MS of this is now at the Huntington Library in Pasadena, California. We may note that college lad Thoreau has based his assignment entirely upon the 23 pages of the “ADVERTISEMENT” written by Ferguson on February 7, 1805 in Edinburgh and presented on pages v-xxvii of Volume I, and has remained remarkably faithful to the vocabulary and style there offered, not only inside but also outside of quotation marks.



**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

with the expulsion of the Decemvirs, about the close of the 4th century of Rome, have survived the revolutions of time and nature. Livy, whose work is a detail of what was reported from the first ages of Rome, was a native of Padua; and being retained in the family of Livia, as tutor to Claudius, who was afterwards emperor, must have had access to every source of information the times could afford. Of 140 books composed by him, only 35 have yet been recovered. These consist of the first 10, down to the 5[th] century; 25 also, from the beginning of the second Punic War to the reduction of Macedonia, about the year 580 U.C. These however, compared to what must have followed, are to be regarded as but the meaner and less authentic part of his work. Plutarch, who was a Greek, lived at Rome in the reign of Trajan, about a century later than Livy. In his biography of distinguished men he probably borrowed from Livy and Dionysius. The writings of Florus, who is supposed to have lived in the reign of Trajan; of [Eutropius](#), who served under Julian, in his expedition to Parthia; and of Velleius Paterculus, an officer of high rank under Tiberius; but, particularly, those of Polybius, Plutarch, Dio Cassius, and Appian, serve to supply the defects which might arise from the loss of Sallust's General History and a large portion of Livy. Of the works of Salust [Sallust], who is justly distinguished by the energy of his style, that was with Jugurtha, the conspiracy of Cataline, and a few fragments are all that remain. We next come upon the ground of Caesar's Commentaries; with the Correspondence, and other works of Cicero; the Lives of the Caesars, by Suetonius; the Annals of Tacitus, respecting the latter times of Augustus, the reign of Tiberius, and the accession of Caius. We must often avail ourselves of the remarks of numerous other authors, not professing to write history; as Strabo the Geographer, who lived in the reign of Augustus; Pliny, the Natural Historian; A. Gettius [Gellius], a Grammarian, or as we say, a man of letters, who lived under Hadrian, and wrote a collection called the Attic Nights; Asconius Pedianus [Pædianus] and Festus -Introductions to the orations of Cicero by the first -an abridgement of Tasso by the 2nd[.] Another class of authors to be consulted are those who, though living lower down in the Christian era, had access to consult the more ancient authors entire, as well as those who though ancient, wrote of other nations with whom the Romans had to do. Of these last are Pausanias and Josephus, the one writing of Greece, the other of Judea. Frontinus, a military officer under Nero, Vespasian, and Trajan, who, in collecting stratagems of war, sometimes falls within our period. Valerius Maximus, an adherent of Sextus, who has left a collection of remarkable sayings, actions, and examples of different sorts. Cornelius Nepos. Aurelius Victor, who about the time of Constantine, wrote the Lives of Illustrious Persons. Also the list and succession of consuls, and other officers of State, inscribed on marble or otherwise preserved, are a material aid. Among the authors of a later date, who my [may] have had access to consult the ancients entire, are Orosius, a Spanish priest of the 5th century; Zonaras and Xephilinus, both of Constantinople, and previous to the invasion of the Turks.



**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

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November 17, Thursday: Before this date [David Henry Thoreau](#) had renewed the 1st of the five volumes of [Professor Adam Ferguson](#)'s THE HISTORY OF THE PROGRESS AND TERMINATION OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC (1773, new edition, Edinburgh, 1813) from the library of the "[Institute of 1770.](#)" On this day he again checked out that set's 2d volume. Our guy would comment later of the catacombs full of preserved death, of our museums full of stuffed animals, and of such history textbooks stuffed full with irrelevant facts, that:



"I hate museums, there is nothing so weighs upon the spirits. They are catacombs of nature. They are preserved death. One green bud of Spring one willow catkin, one faint trill from some migrating sparrow, might set the world on its legs again.

I know not whether I muse most at the bodies stuffed with cotton and sawdust – or those stuffed with bowels and fleshy fibre.

The life that is in a single green weed is of more worth than all this death. They are very much like the written history of the world – and I read Rollin and Ferguson with the same feeling."



–JOURNAL; September 24, 1843

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Also, probably on this date, he checked out the two volumes of the [Reverend Timothy Flint](#)'s THE SHOSHONEE VALLEY; A ROMANCE. 'DULCIA LINQUIMUS ARVA; NOS PATRIAM FUGIMUS.' BY THE AUTHOR OF FRANCIS BERRIAN (Cincinnati: E.H. Flint, 1830).

**THE SHOSHONE VALLEY, I****THE SHOSHONE VALLEY, II**

(In this novel, which happens to have been the 1st to depict mountain men as literary characters, although a few of Flint's trappers are able to experience in the mountains "a certain half chill sensation of the awful and sublime," the bulk of them are "strange, fearless, and adamant men, renouncing society, casting off fear, and all the common impulses and affections of our nature ... finding in their own ingenuity, their knife, gun and traps, all the Divinity, of which their stern nature and condition taught them the necessity became almost as inaccessible to passions and wants, and as sufficient to themselves, as the trees, or the rocks with which they were conversant." In other words, these nature boys were being happy by behaving expediently and therefore ethically, as taught in 1806 and 1811 by François-Xavier-Joseph Droz in *ESSAI SUR L'ART D'ÊTRE HEUREUX* and as taught by the [Reverend Flint](#) in 1832 in THE ART OF BEING HAPPY: FROM THE FRENCH OF DROZ, 'SUR L'ART D'ÊTRE HEUREUX;' IN A SERIES OF LETTERS FROM A FATHER TO HIS CHILDREN: WITH OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS.)

Friend Stephen Wanton Gould wrote in his journal:

*5 day 17th of 11 M Preparative Meeting & Silent The first was solid - the last Short tho' two complaints were entered for the Moy [Monthly] Meeting. -*





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December 8, Thursday: [David Henry Thoreau](#) supplemented his borrowings from the [Harvard Library](#) by checking out, from the library of the [“Institute of 1770”](#), William Beckford’s ITALY: WITH SKETCHES OF SPAIN AND PORTUGAL (London and Philadelphia: R. Bentley, 1834),



**WM. BECKFORD, ITALY**

**SPAIN AND PORTUGAL**



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[George Combe](#)'s LECTURES ON MORAL PHILOSOPHY: DELIVERED BEFORE THE "EDINBURGH PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY," AND REPORTED FOR THE "EDINBURGH CHRONICLE." (Boston: Marsh, Capen & Lyon; New-York: Daniel Appleton & Co.),



**MORAL PHILOSOPHY**





**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

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TERRIBLE TRACTORATION, AND OTHER POEMS. BY CHRISTOPHER CAUSTIC, M.D. FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, ABERDEEN, AND HONORARY MEMBER OF NO LESS THAN NINETEEN VERY LEARNED SOCIETIES [pseud.]. 3d American ed. (Boston: Russell, Shattuck & co., 1836, a book of poetry and commentary of a sort which can be best described by suggesting that it might have been better had the author of it, the journalist [Thomas Green Fessenden](#), persisted in his prior career as an attorney at law),

## **TERRIBLE TRACTORATION**



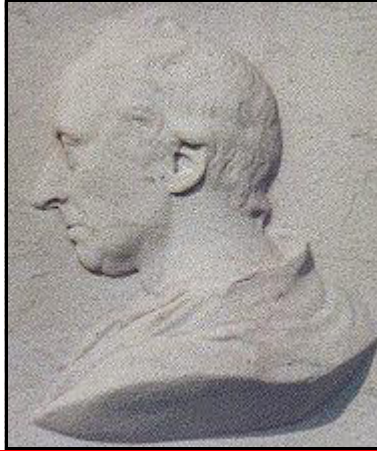
and the 3d of the five volumes of [Professor Adam Ferguson](#)'s THE HISTORY OF THE PROGRESS AND



**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

TERMINATION OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC (1773, new edition, Edinburgh, 1813).



### **THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, III**

This volume covers the period from Gaius [Julius Caesar](#)'s departure for Gaul to his defeat of Pompey at Pharsalus in Thessaly.

Our guy would comment later of the catacombs full of preserved death, of our museums full of stuffed animals, and of such history textbooks stuffed full with irrelevant facts, that:



"I hate museums, there is nothing so weighs upon the spirits. They are catacombs of nature. They are preserved death. One green bud of Spring one willow catkin, one faint trill from some migrating sparrow, might set the world on its legs again.

I know not whether I muse most at the bodies stuffed with cotton and sawdust – or those stuffed with bowels and fleshy fibre.

The life that is in a single green weed is of more worth than all this death. They are very much like the written history of the world – and I read Rollin and Ferguson with the same feeling."

–JOURNAL; September 24, 1843





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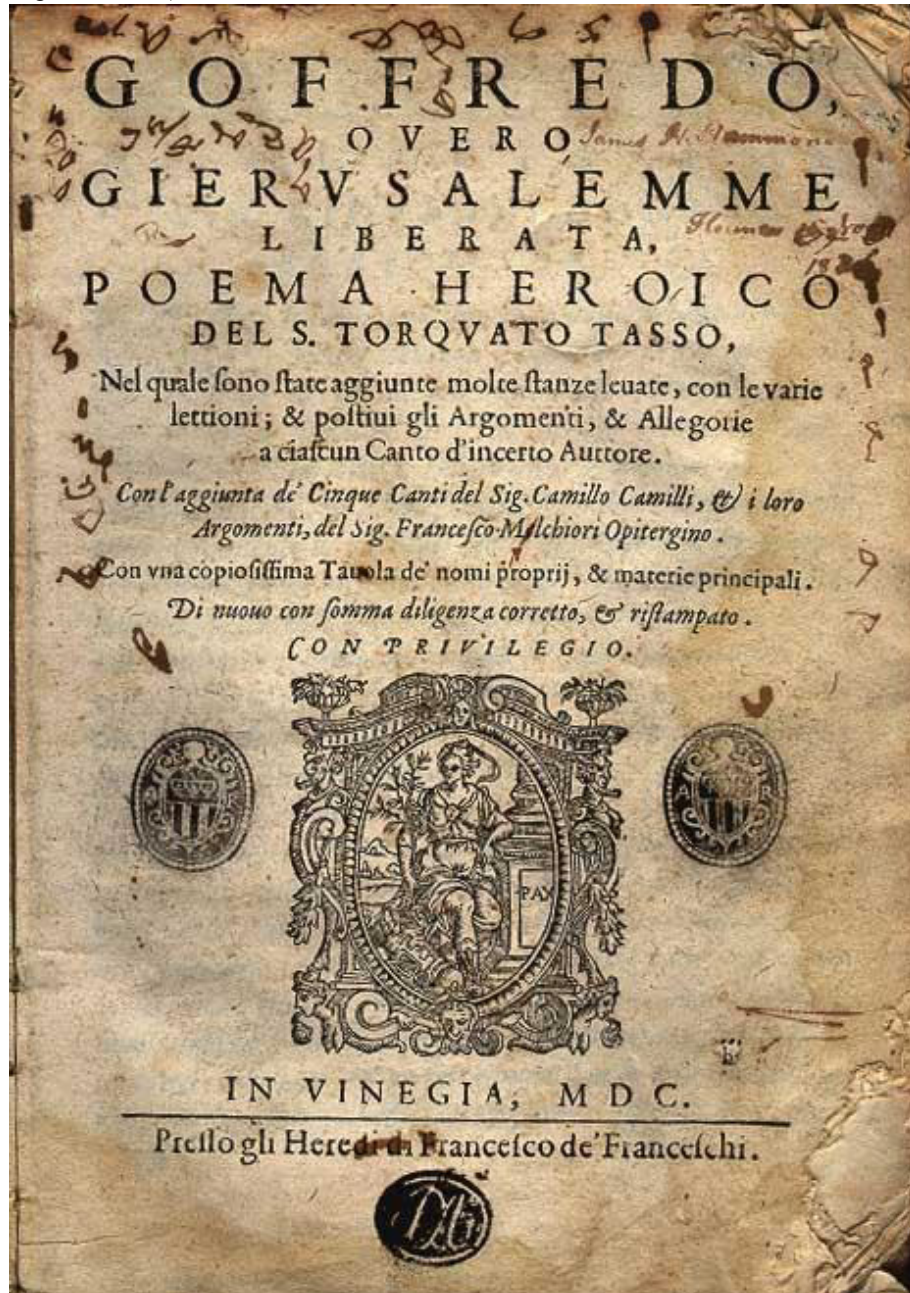
After December 8, Thursday: [David Henry Thoreau](#) supplemented his borrowings from the [Harvard Library](#) by checking out, at various times before March 13th, from the library of the "[Institute of 1770](#)", both volumes of John Hoole's translations of Torquato Tasso (1544-1595)'s *LA GIERVSALEMME LIBERATA DI TORQVATO TASSO. CON LE FIGURE DI BERNARDO CASTELLO, E LE ANNOTATIONI DI SCIPIO GENTILI, E DI GIULIO GVASTAVINI* (Genova: G. Bartoli, 1590) and *GOFFREDO, OVERO GIERUSALEMME LIBERATA, POEMA HEROICO DEL S. TORQUATO TASSO, NEL QUALE SONO STATE AGGIUNTE MOLTE STANZE LEUATE, CON LE VARIE LETTIONI; & POSTIUI GLI ARGOMENTI, & ALLEGORIE A CIASCUN CANTO D'INCERTO AUTTORE. CON L'AGGIUNTA DE' CINQUE CANTI DEL SIG. CAMILLO CAMILLI, & I LORO ARGOMENTI, DEL SIG. FRANCESO MELCHIORI OPITERGINO* (Vinegia: heirs of Francesco de'Franceschi, 1600), published as *JERUSALEM DELIVERED* (London, 1764, 1783, 1797; Exeter,

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New Hampshire: 1810),



and then the 3d, 4th, and 5th of the five volumes of [Professor Adam Ferguson](#)'s THE HISTORY OF THE





**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

PROGRESS AND TERMINATION OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC (1773, new edition, Edinburgh, 1813).



**THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, III**

**THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, IV**

**THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, V**

Also, [Thoreau](#) would check out, from the library of his club "[Institute of 1770](#)", Volume 35 of the [North American Review](#) containing:

- Mrs. William Minot's "Cousin's Philosophy," reviewing among other works by Professor [Victor Cousin](#) the Henning Gottfried Linberg translation of his INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY (Boston, 1832)
- a review of Ebenezer Henderson's ICELAND (ITS NATURAL PHENOMENA, MANNERS AND CUSTOMS)
- William H. Prescott's article on "English Literature of the Nineteenth Century"
- a review of the great Romantic poets
- William B.O. Peabody's article on the "Habits of Insects"
- "History of the Italian Language and Dialects"
- a review of D.J. Browne's *SYLVA AMERICANA*, entitled "American Forest Trees"
- a review of Sir James Macintosh's GENERAL VIEW OF THE PROGRESS OF ETHICAL PHILOSOPHY

At some point before March 13th [Thoreau](#) checked out Volume 41 of the [North American Review](#) containing:

- "THE AMERICAN [ALMANAC](#)," in regard to the philosophy of time, and the recording of time
- "Machiavelli"
- a review of [Mrs. Lydia Maria Child's](#) APPEAL IN FAVOR OF THAT CLASS OF AMERICANS CALLED AFRICANS, entitled "Slavery"
- "Audubon's Biography of Birds," about [John James Audubon's](#) ORNITHOLOGICAL BIOGRAPHY, OR AN ACCOUNT OF THE HABITS OF THE BIRDS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ACCOMPANIED BY DESCRIPTIONS OF THE OBJECTS REPRESENTED IN THE WORK ENTITLED THE BIRDS OF AMERICA, AND INTERSPERSED WITH DELINEATIONS OF AMERICAN SCENERY AND MANNERS (Edinburgh: Adam Black, Vol. I - 1831, Vol. II - 1835, Vol. III - 1835...)
- "Webster's Speeches"
- Professor Georg Heinrich Bode's "Classic Mythology"



**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

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- a review of William Swainson's PRELIMINARY DISCOURSE ON THE STUDY OF NATURAL HISTORY (London: Longman, 1834), entitled "Study of Natural History"
- a review of [Thomas Carlyle](#)'s [SARTOR RESARTUS: THE LIFE AND OPINIONS OF HERR TEUFELSDRÖKH](#)

At some point before March 13th [Thoreau](#) checked out Issue 120 of the [Edinburgh Review](#) made up of an article on the new book by Professor [Victor Cousin](#) in relation to the Sutras, the Vedas, the researches of Colebrooke, mysticism, Socrates, Plato, and Kant, entitled "Cousin on the History of Philosophy"

At some point before March 13th [Thoreau](#) checked out the first two of the five volumes of Maximilien de Bethune, duc de Sully (1560-1641)'s *MEMOIRS* (Edinburgh, 1770, 1773), Jeremiah N. Reynolds's VOYAGE OF THE UNITED STATES FRIGATE POTOMAC ... DURING THE CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF THE GLOBE, IN THE YEARS 1831, 1832, 1833 AND 1834 (New-York, 1834-1835), the 1st volume of [Edward Gibbon](#)'s THE HISTORY OF THE DECLINE AND FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE (London 1807, 1820, 1821),

### **GIBBON, DECLINE & FALL I**

the first two of the volumes of Sully's MEMOIRS (again), George Combe's LECTURES ON MORAL PHILOSOPHY (Boston: Marsh, Capen, & Lyon; New-York: D. Appleton & Co., 1836),

### **GEORGE COMBE LECTURES**

the 1st of the three volumes of Bishop Thomas Percy (1729-1811)'s RELIQUES OF ANCIENT ENGLISH POETRY (compiled 1765, reprinted Philadelphia, 1823),

<http://www.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/percyleg.htm>

William Hazlitt's LECTURES ON ENGLISH POETS (Philadelphia, 1818; London, 1819), and the 1st volume (again) of [Edward Gibbon](#)'s THE HISTORY OF THE DECLINE AND FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE (London 1807, 1820, 1821).



### **GIBBON, DECLINE & FALL I**



**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

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December 26, Monday: Speaker of the House of Representatives [James Knox Polk](#) ruled that all the resolutions of the previous session, including the infamous gag rule that had been put in place, had expired.



On some day late in December, [David Henry Thoreau](#) renewed Volume III of [Professor Adam Ferguson](#)'s THE HISTORY OF THE PROGRESS AND TERMINATION OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC (1773, new edition, Edinburgh, 1813) from the library of the "[Institute of 1770.](#)" and checked out in addition Volume IV and Volume V.

(Volume IV covers the history of the Roman republic from Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus's flight and death to the breach between [Octavius](#) and Marcus Aemilius Lepidus, while Volume V covers the material from the expedition of [Mark Antony](#) against the Parthians to the death of [Tiberius Caesar Augustus](#).)



PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON

PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON

1837



Yet another edition of [Adam Ferguson](#)'s THE HISTORY OF THE PROGRESS AND TERMINATION OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC (London: Jones & Co.).



(Just because [Henry Thoreau](#) considers something “preserved death” doesn’t mean it isn’t going to sell like hotcakes.)





PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON

PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON

1843

September 24, Sunday: Little [Louisa May Alcott](#) jotted in her diary:

*Father and Mr. Lane have gone to N.H. to preach. It was very lovely.... Anna and I got supper. In the eve I read "Vicar of Wakefield." I was cross today, and I cried when I went to bed. I made good resolutions, and felt better in my heart. If I only kept all I make, I should be the best girl in the world. But I don't, and so am very bad.*

In a considerably later timeframe, the author of this would review what she had written as a child, and annotate it with the following:

*Poor little sinner! She says the same at fifty.*



September 24, Sunday: I hate museums, there is nothing so weighs upon the spirits. They are catacombs of nature. They are preserved death. One green bud of Spring one willow catkin, one faint trill from some migrating sparrow, might set the world on its legs again.

I know not whether I muse most at the bodies stuffed with cotton and sawdust — or those stuffed with bowels and fleshy fibre.

The life that is in a single green weed is of more worth than all this death. They are very much like the written history of the world — and I read Rollin and [Ferguson](#)<sup>6</sup> with the same feeling

[Henry Thoreau](#) also jotted a note in his journal about Sir [William Drummond](#):



They say that Carew was a laborious writer but his poems do not show it— They are finished but do not show the marks of the chisel. Drummond was indeed a quiddler — with little fire and fibre Rather a taste for poetry — than a taste of it

At an unknown point in his journal for 1842-1844 (and we might as well consider this material here since it is indeed autumn, and just about time for the annual cattle show), Henry Thoreau also employed s couplet from Sir [William Drummond](#) to embellish some ruminations about the cattle in the street:



The low of cattle in the street sounds like a low symphony or running base to the hurry scurry of the leaves.

The wind goes hurrying down the country, gleaning every loose straw that is left in the fields — while every farmers lad too seems to scud before it — having donned his best pea-jacket and pepper and salt waistcoat his (as yet) unbent trowsers — outstanding rigging of duck or kersymere, or corduroy — and his furry hat withal — to county fairs and Cattle-shows — to this Rome amid the villages where the treasures of the year are gathered.— All the land over they go leaping the fences with their tough idle palms which have not yet learned to hang by their sides, amid the low of calves and the bleating of sheep.— Amos — abner — Elnathan Elbridge

“From steep pine-bearing mountains to the plain.”

I love these sons of earth — every mother's son of them — with their great heavy hearts rushing tumultuously in herds — from spectacle to spectacle, as if fearful that there should not be time between sun and sun to see them all.— And the sun does not wait more than in haying time.

“wise Nature's darlings, they live in the world



**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

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Perplexing not themselves how it is hurl'd.”  
They may bring their fattest cattle and their fairest fruits — but they are all eclipsed by the show of men.  
These are stirring autumn days. When men sweep by in crowds amid the rustle of leaves, like migrating finches— This is the true harvest of the year when the air is but the breath of men — and the rustling of leaves is as the trampling of the crowd.  
We read nowadays of the ancient festivals games and processions of the Greeks and Etruscans with a little incredulity —or at least want of sympathy— but now childlike — how natural and irrepressible must be in all people some hearty palpable greeting of nature. The Corybantes the Bacchannals — the rude primitive tragedians with their procession and goat song and the whole paraphernalia of the Panathenaea — which seems so antiquated and peculiar are easily paralleled now. The husbandman is always a better Greek than the scholar is prepared to understand — and the old custom still survives while antiquarians & scholars grow grey in commemorating it  
The farmers crowd to the fair today — in obedience to the same ancient law of the race — which Solon or Lycurgus did not enact — as naturally as bees swarm and follow their queen.— I love to see the herd of men feeding heartily on coarse succulent pleasures — as cattle feed on the husk and stalks of vegetables Many of them it is true are crooked and crabbed specimens of humanity, run all to thorn and rind and crowded out of shape by adverse circumstances like the third chestnut in the bur — yet fear not that the race will fail or waver in them — like the crabs which grow in hedges they furnish the stocks of sweet and thrifty fruits still— Thus is nature recruited from age to age while the fair and palatable varieties are dying out and have their period.  
This is that mankind.  
How cheap must be the material of which so many men are made— And where is that quarry in the earth from which these thousands were dug up?

**“MAGISTERIAL HISTORY” IS FANTASIZING: HISTORY IS CHRONOLOGY**

6. [Professor Adam Ferguson](#)’s THE HISTORY OF THE PROGRESS AND TERMINATION OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC (1783, new edition, Edinburgh, 1813; 5 volumes), which Thoreau had consulted extensively in 1836.



**THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, I**

**THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, II**

**THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, III**

**THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, IV**

**THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, V**



**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**

**PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON**



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"It's all now you see. Yesterday won't be over until tomorrow and tomorrow began ten thousand years ago."

- Remark by character "Garin Stevens"  
in William Faulkner's INTRUDER IN THE DUST



**Prepared: October 23, 2014**



PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON

PROFESSOR ADAM FERGUSON

# *ARRGH AUTOMATED RESearch REPORT*

## *GENERATION HOTLINE*



This stuff presumably looks to you as if it were generated by a human. Such is not the case. Instead, someone has requested that we pull it out of the hat of a pirate who has grown out of the shoulder of our pet parrot "Laura" (as above). What these chronological lists are: they are research reports compiled by ARRGH algorithms out of a database of modules which we term the Kouroo Contexture (this is data mining). To respond to such a request for information we merely push a button.



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Commonly, the first output of the algorithm has obvious deficiencies and we need to go back into the modules stored in the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we need to punch that button again and recompile the chronology – but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary “writerly” process you know and love. As the contents of this originating contexture improve, and as the programming improves, and as funding becomes available (to date no funding whatever has been needed in the creation of this facility, the entire operation being run out of pocket change) we expect a diminished need to do such tweaking and recompiling, and we fully expect to achieve a simulation of a generous and untiring robotic research librarian. Onward and upward in this brave new world.

First come first serve. There is no charge.  
Place requests with <Kouroo@kouroo.info>. Arrgh.