DAVID CROCKETT.

CHAPTER I.

Parentage and CJiildJwod.

The Emigrant. Crossing the Alleghanies. The boundless Wilder-

ness. The Hut on the Holston. Life's Necessaries. The

Massacre. Birth of David Crockett. Peril of the Boys.

Anecdote. Removal to Greenville ; to Cove Creek. Increased

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with the Drover.-^Adventures in the Wilderness.-^ Virtual Cap-

tivity. The Escape. The Return. The Runaway. New Ad-

yentures.

A LITTLE more than a hundred years ago, a poor

man, by the name of Crockett, embarked on board

an emigrant-ship, in Ireland, for the New World.

He was in the humblest station in life. But very-

little is known respecting his uneventful career,

excepting its tragical close. His family consisted of

a wife and three or four children. Just before he

sailed, or on the Atlantic passage, a son was born, to

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whom he gave the name of John. The family

probably landed in Philadelphia, and dwelt some-

where in Pennsylvania, for a year or two, in one of

those slab shanties, with which all are familiar as

the abodes of the poorest class of Irish emigrants.

After a year or two, Crockett, with his little

family, crossed the almost pathless Alleghanies.

Father, mother, and children trudged along through

the rugged defiles and over the rocky cliffs, on foot.

Probably a single pack-horse conveyed their few

household goods. The hatchet and the rifle were

the only means of obtaining food, shelter, and even

clothing. With the hatchet, in an hour or two, a

comfortable camp could be constructed, which would

protect them from wind and rain. The camp-fire,

cheering the darkness of the night, drying their

often wet garments, and warming their chilled

limbs with its genial glow, enabled them to enjoy

that almost greatest of earthly luxuries, peaceful

sleep.

The rifle supplied them with food. The fattest

of turkeys and the most tender steaks of venison,

roasted upon forked sticks, which they held in their

hands over the coals, feasted their voracious appe-

tites. This, to them, was almost sumptuous food.

The skin of the deer, by a rapid and simple pro-

cess of tanning, supplied them with moccasons, and

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afforded material for the repair of their tattered

garments.