

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I

APRIL 27, 1791 — SEPTEMBER 8, 1810

Birth of S. F. B. Morse. — His parents. — Letters of Dr. Belknap and Rev. Mr. Wells. — Phillips, Andover. — First letter. — Letter from his father. — Religious letter from Morse to his brothers. — Letters from the mother to her sons. — Morse enters Yale. — His journey there. — Difficulty in keeping up with his class. — Letter of warning from his mother. — Letters of Jedediah Morse to Bishop of London and Lindley Murray. — Morse becomes more studious. — Bill of expenses. — Longing to travel and interest in electricity. — Philadelphia and New York. — Graduates from college. — Wishes to accompany Allston to England, but submits to parents' desires

CHAPTER II

OCTOBER 31, 1810 — AUGUST 17, 1811

Enters bookshop as clerk. — Devotes leisure to painting. — Leaves shop. — Letter to his brothers on appointments at Yale. — Letters from Joseph P. Rossiter. — Morse's first love affair. — Paints "Landing of the Pilgrims." — Prepares to sail with Allstons for England. — Letters of introduction from his father. — Disagreeable stage-ride to New York. — Sails on the Lydia. — Prosperous voyage. — Liverpool. — Trip to London. — Observations on people and customs. — Frequently cheated. — Critical time in England. — Dr. Lettson. — Sheridan's verse. — Longing for a telegraph. — A ghost 24

CHAPTER III

AUGUST 24, 1811 — DECEMBER 1, 1811

Benjamin West. — George III. — Morse begins his studies. — Introduced to West. — Enthusiasms. — Smuggling and lotteries. — English appreciation of art. — Copley. — Friendliness of West. — Elgin marbles. — Cries of London. — Custom in knocking. — Witnesses balloon ascension. — Crowds. — Vauxhall Gardens. — St. Bartholomew's Fair. — Efforts to be economical. — Signs of war. — Mails delayed. — Admitted to Royal Academy. — Disturbances, riots, and murders

41



xvi

CONTENTS

CHAPTER IV

JANUARY 18, 1812 — AUGUST 6, 1812

Political opinions. — Charles R. Leslie's reminiscences of Morse, Allston, King, and Coleridge. — C. B. King's letter. — Sidney E. Morse's letter. — Benjamin West's kindness. — Sir William Beechy. — Murders, robberies, etc. — Morse and Leslie paint each other's portraits. — The elder Morse's financial difficulties. — He deprecates the war talk. — The son differs from his father. — The Prince Regent. — Orders in Council. — Estimate of West. — Alarming state of affairs in England. — Assassination of Perceval, Prime Minister. — Execution of assassin. — Morse's love for his art. — Stephen Van Rensselaer. — Leslie the friend and Allston the master. — Afternoon tea. — The elder Morse well known in Europe. — Lord Castlereagh. — The Queen's drawing-room. — Kemble and Mrs. Siddons. — Zachary Macaulay. — Warning letter from his parents. — War declared. — Morse approves. — Gratitude to his parents, and to Allston

CHAPTER V

SEPTEMBER 20, 1812 — JUNE 13, 1813

CHAPTER VI

JULY 10, 1813 — APRIL 6, 1814

Letter from the father on economies and political views. — Morse deprecates lack of spirit in New England and rejoices at Wellington's victories. — Allston's poems. — Morse coat-of-arms. — Letter of Joseph Hillhouse. — Letter of exhortation from his mother. — Morse wishes to stay longer in Europe. — Amused at mother's political views. — The father sends more money for a longer stay. — Sidney exalts poetry above painting. — His mother warns him against infidels and actors. — Bristol. — Optimism. — Letter on infidels and his own religious observances. — Future of American art. — He is in good health, but thin. — Letter from Mr. Visger. — Benjamin Burritt, American prisoner. — Efforts in his behalf unsuccessful. — Capture



CONTENTS

xvii

of Paris by the Allies.—Again expresses gratitude to parents.—Writes a play for Charles Mathews.—Not produced 108

CHAPTER VII

MAY 2, 1814 — OCTOBER 11, 1814

Allston writes encouragingly to the parents. — Morse unwilling to be mere portrait-painter. — Ambitious to stand at the head of his profession. — Desires patronage from wealthy friends. — Delay in the mails. — Account of entrée of Louis XVIII into London. — The Prince Regent. — Indignation at acts of English. — His parents relieved at hearing from him after seven months' silence. — No hope of patronage from America. — His brothers. — Account of fêtes. — Emperor Alexander, King of Prussia, Blücher, Platoff. — Wishes to go to Paris. — Letter from M. Van Schaick about battle of Lake Erie. — Disgusted with England

CHAPTER VIII

NOVEMBER 9, 1814 — APRIL 23, 1815

Does not go to Paris. — Letter of admonition from his mother. — His parents' early economies. — Letter from Leslie. — Letter from Rev. S. F. Jarvis on politics. — The mother tells of the economies of another young American, Dr. Parkman. — The son resents constant exhortations to economize, and tells of meanness of Dr. Parkman. — Writes of his own economies and industry. — Disgusted with Bristol. — Prophesies peace between England and America. — Estimates of Morse's character by Dr. Romeyn and Mr. Van Schaick. — The father regrets reproof of son for political views. — Death of Mrs. Allston. — Disagreeable experience in Bristol. — More economies. — Napoleon I. — Peace

CHAPTER IX

MAY 3, 1815 — OCTOBER 18, 1815

Decides to return home in the fall. — Hopes to return to Europe in a year. — Ambitions. — Paints "Judgment of Jupiter." — Not allowed to compete for premium. — Mr. Russell's portrait. — Reproof of his parents. — Battle of Waterloo. — Wilberforce. — Painting of "Dying Hercules" received by parents. — Much admired. — Sails for home. — Dreadful voyage lasting fifty-eight days. — Extracts from his journal. — Home at last

CHAPTER X

APRIL 10, 1816 - OCTOBER 5, 1818

Very little success at home. — Portrait of ex-President John Adams. — Letter to Allston on sale of his "Dead Man restored to Life." — Also



xviii

CONTENTS

apologizes for hasty temper. — Reassured by Allston. — Humorous letter from Leslie. — Goes to New Hampshire to paint portraits. — Concord. — Meets Miss Lucretia Walker. — Letters to his parents concerning her. — His parents reply. — Engaged to Miss Walker. — His parents approve. — Many portraits painted. — Miss Walker's parents consent. — Success in Portsmouth. — Morse and his brother invent a pump. — Highly endorsed by President Day and Eli Whitney. — Miss Walker visits Charlestown. — Morse's religious convictions. — More success in New Hampshire. — Winter in Charleston, South Carolina. — John A. Alston. — Success. — Returns north. — Letter from his uncle Dr. Finley. — Marriage

CHAPTER XI

NOVEMBER 19, 1818 — MARCH 31, 1821

Morse and his wife go to Charleston, South Carolina. — Hospitably entertained and many portraits painted. — Congratulates Allston on his election to the Royal Academy. — Receives commission to paint President Monroe. — Trouble in the parish at Charlestown. — Morse urges his parents to leave and come to Charleston. — Letters of John A. Alston. — Return to the North. — Birth of his first child. — Dr. Morse and his family decide to move to New Haven. — Morse goes to Washington. — Paints the President under difficulties. — Hospitalities. — Death of his grandfather. — Dr. Morse appointed Indian Commissioner. — Marriage of Morse's future mother-in-law. — Charleston again. — Continued success. — Letters to Mrs. Ball. — Liberality of Mr. Alston. — Spends the summer in New Haven. — Returns to Charleston, but meets with poor success. — Assists in founding Academy of Arts, which has but a short life. — Goes North again

CHAPTER XII

MAY 23, 1821 — DECEMBER 17, 1824

Accompanies Mr. Silliman to the Berkshires. — Takes his wife and daughter to Concord, New Hampshire. — Writes to his wife from Boston about a bonnet. — Goes to Washington, D. C. — Paints large picture of House of Representatives. — Artistic but not financial success. — Donates five hundred dollars to Yale. — Letter from Mr. De Forest. — New York "Observer." — Discouragements. — First son born. — Invents marble-carving machine. — Goes to Albany. — Stephen Van Rensselaer. — Slight encouragement in Albany. — Longing for a home. — Goes to New York. — Portrait of Chancellor Kent. — Appointed attaché to Legation to Mexico. — High hopes. — Takes affecting leave of his family. — Rough journey to Washington. — Expedition to Mexico indefinitely postponed. — Returns North. — Settles in New York. — Fairly prosperous



CONTENTS

xix

CHAPTER XIII

JANUARY 4, 1825 — NOVEMBER 18, 1825

CHAPTER XIV

JANUARY 1, 1826 - DECEMBER 5, 1829

CHAPTER XV

DECEMBER 6, 1829 — FEBRUARY 6, 1830



 $\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}$

CONTENTS

CHAPTER XVI

FEBRUARY 6, 1830 — JUNE 15, 1830

Serra Palace in Genoa. — Starts for Rome. — Rain in the mountains. — A brigand. — Carrara. — First mention of a railroad. — Pisa. — The leaning tower. — Rome at last. — Begins copying at once. — Notebooks. — Ceremonies at the Vatican. — Pope Pius VIII. — Academy of St. Luke's. — St. Peter's. — Chiesa Nuova. — Painting at the Vatican. — Beggar monks. — Festa of the Annunciation. — Soirée at Palazzo Simbaldi. — Passion Sunday. — Horace Vernet. — Lying in state of a cardinal. — Miserere at Sistine Chapel. — Holy Thursday at St. Peter's. — Third cardinal dies. — Meets Thorwaldsen at Signor Persianis's. — Manners of English, French, and Americans. — Landi's pictures. — Funeral of a young girl. — Trip to Tivoli, Subiaco. — Procession of the Corpus Domini. — Disagreeable experience

CHAPTER XVII

JUNE 17, 1830 — FEBRUARY 2, 1831

CHAPTER XVIII

FEBRUARY 10, 1831 — SEPTEMBER 12, 1831

Historic events witnessed by Morse. — Rumors of revolution. — Danger to foreigners. — Coronation of the new Pope. — Pleasant experience. — Cause of the revolution a mystery. — Bloody plot foiled. — Plans to leave for Florence. — Sends casts, etc., to National Academy of Design. — Leaves Rome. — Dangers of the journey. — Florence. — Description of meeting Prince Radziwill in Coliseum at Rome. — Copies portraits of Rubens and Titian in Florence. — Leaves Florence for Venice. — Disagreeable voyage on the Po. — Venice, beautiful but smelly. — Copies Tintoret's "Miracle of the Slave." — Thunderstorms. — Reflections on the Fourth of July. — Leaves Venice. — Recoaro. — Milan. — Reflections on Catholicism and art. — Como



CONTENTS	xxi
and Maggiore.—The Rigi.—Schaffhausen and Heidelberg.—Evades the quarantine on French border.—Thrilling experience.—Paris	379
CHAPTER XIX	
SEPTEMBER 18, 1831 — SEPTEMBER 21, 1832	
Takes rooms with Horatio Greenough. — Political talk with Lafayette. — Riots in Paris. — Letters from Greenough. — Bunker Hill Monument. — Letters from Fenimore Cooper. — Cooper's portrait by Verboeckhoven. — European criticisms. — Reminiscences of R. W. Habersham. — Hints of an electric telegraph. — Not remembered by Morse. — Early experiments in photography. — Painting of the Louvre. — Cholera in Paris. — Baron von Humboldt. — Morse presides at Fourth of July dinner. — Proposes toast to Lafayette. — Letter to New York "Observer" on Fenimore Cooper. — Also on pride in American citizenship. — Works with Lafayette in behalf of Poles. — Letter from Lafayette. — Morse visits London before sailing for home. — Sits to Leslie for head of Sterne	407
CHAPTER XX	
Morse's life almost equally divided into two periods, artistic and scientific. — Estimate of his artistic ability by Daniel Huntington. — Also by Samuel Isham. — His character as revealed by his letters, notes, etc. — End of Volume I	121