

PREFACE

francs and robberies, first in New Brunawick, and next in the United States; exposing himself, in the former, to the punishment of death, but pardoned, sheltered, and succoured; and, at last, receiving sentence of imprisonment for a short term of years, upon conviction of an inferior crime, in the United States. He was first tried for, and convicted, of horse-stealing, and, at last, punished for house-robbery. The artifices, the impostures, and, above all, the extraordinary share of talent, under mechanical and other aspects, by which the crooked course of this miserable vagrant is distinguished, constitute the chief motive for pursuing the tale.

The Author has not omitted to express himself duly sensible of the charge of weakness and credulity to which he exposes himself by what he writes; and the Editor himself is obliged to indulge a suspicion, that on one or two points, at the least, there is something over-coloured. Those exceptions, however, apply to very insignificant portions of the Narrative; and the reader will find himself unavoidably led to the remark, that all its main features appear to be placed beyond controversy.

The truth of the Narrative allowed, as also the amusement to be derived from the perusal of so extraordinary a succession of devices and adventures, the reflecting mind will not be unwilling to entertain the question, What utility is to be found