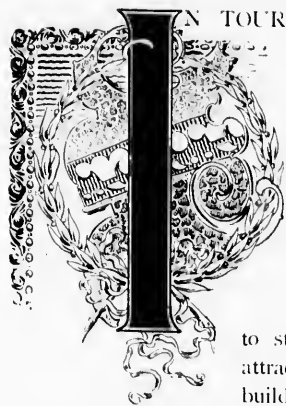


INTRODUCTION



IN TOURING on one occasion through India, two travelers met and after exchanging salutations each recited to the other his experience of the country. One said, "I have been preaching for fifty years God's handiwork in Nature;" the other observed that he had been a silent but no less devout worshiper. Impressed by the observations and the fervor of each of the enthusiasts, one day the thought occurred to the compiler of this work how little he had seen of the wondrous beauties of the world, and he then and there made a vow that if his life were spared, he would see with the physical eye what he had been trying to demonstrate to others. The object of the series of photographic productions is this: There are thousands unable, through lack of the time and means, to see with their own eyes the wonderful works herein shown by the solar prints in which this volume is so rich. The volume comes as a key to unlock these treasures of nature to all, and to stimulate the imagination and enrich each one's mental library with a collection of the most attractive views of every country under the sun,—showing the onlooker the parks, palaces, public buildings and chief cities of the world, works of art and statuary, famous paintings, etc., together with a representation of the manners, habits, and customs of the people, very vividly and realistically portrayed. The series opens with a tour through England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, then follow views of France, Germany, Spain, Norway, Sweden, Belgium, Africa, India, Egypt, China, Japan, the Hawaiian Islands, Alaska, the Canadas, then a visit through the West India Islands, Mexico, and the United States. The compiler of the work has spared no expense in placing this panorama before the spectator, confident that the views presented will improve the mind and open to the world at large the vast field of travel which it has cost the editor much to explore and set forth. In appropriate language a description is furnished, without a multiplicity of words, of each and every scene, and one cannot help but be benefited by its constant perusal, making one better mentally, morally, and socially. Noting in either letterpress or in picture, it is confidently claimed, occurs in the book to offend the eye or ear of the most sensitive; while to the student of art, science, and literature, every glimpse and accompanying description must prove most entertaining and informing.

THE EDITOR.