
A N

INTRODUCTORY DISCOURSE

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THE STATE OF LITERATURE

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NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA.

IN all absolute governments, Genius has been almost uniformly observed to despond and droop*; she is a plant of the most tender texture, that requires to be sedulously watched in infancy, and can be raised to maturity by little less than the care and anxiety of pa-

* To this position, if it be objected that the best Roman writers flourished under Augustus, and that they were nearly equalled by the French under Louis the XIVth, it may be replied, that the objections are few; and it is a received maxim, that the paucity of exceptions serves only to confirm a rule.