

PREFACE.

THIS little sketch of the sea-board States, though a reprint, may be fairly considered as the latest publication on America; not only is it "*a last look*," but *the* last look at the United States, which, singly and collectively, are growing of so much consequence as to force themselves more and more vividly on the attention of Europe—more especially on the parent stock—England.

To those who are not violently prejudiced on either side the water, it will, I trust, appear in what I say that there is quite enough of *admiration* of all that is really admirable, free from that insipid simpering approval of everything which not only misleads, but destroys all the lights and shadows inseparable from men and things in this beautiful world.

Happily this namby-pamby, "caw-me caw-thee," style gives way as we open our eyes wider, to a more vigorous, healthy tone between ourselves and the Americans; they know their own real advantages, and in turn, writing of England, don't at all spare our defects: except among ourselves we are only too candid, so their volumes are not the less relished on that account on this side the Atlantic.

We all affect to run after and worship *Truth*, which stalks about the earth in giant shapes before our eyes in the noon-day sun; but which we all insist on only looking at through our own individual infinitely coloured spectacles! The spectacles education fixes on our noses. However, in this tiny volume it is not a question of a million transatlantic facts: the aim is to be amusing, with a pleasant variety in the descriptions of things, many of them long since described over and over again. But these very things have greatly changed since the days when a Marryat made us laugh—or still more recently when we were tickled by the inimitable Notes of a