

life very few advantages to this country, though acquired at an immense expence.

To make the following work as comprehensive and entertaining as possible, I shall first give my readers an account of the route I pursued over this immense continent, and as I pass on, describe the number of inhabitants, the situation of the rivers and lakes, and the productions of the country. Having done this I shall treat, in distinct chapters, of the manners, customs and languages of the Indians.

And here it is necessary to bespeak the candor of the learned part of my readers in the perusal of it, as it is the production of a person unused, from opposite avocations, to literary pursuits. He therefore begs they would not examine it with too critical an eye; especially when he assures them that his attention has been more employed on giving a just description of a country that promises, in some future period, to be an inexhaustible source of riches to that people who shall be so fortunate as to possess it, than on the stile of composition; and more careful to render his language intelligible, and explicit, than smooth and florid.