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To make the following work as comprehensibe and extertaining 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 named, 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 pomises, 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 sile of composition; and more careful to render his language intelligible, and explicit, than smooth and stories.

Carlo Maria Salah Maria