

PREFACE.

Though works on America abound, yet as the minds and opinions of writers are as diverse as their features, and their opportunities of observation diverse also ; every one will have his own story to tell. The aspect of Society too is ever on the shift ; whether it be by the innumerable torrent of Emigration, or by the passage of time, or by the ordinary increase of population. All these items furnish materials to the writer for his subject.

To make the experience of a man generally useful, he should possess the mental characteristics of sincerity, correctness, and accuracy in his observation of men and things—correctness in his mental impressions of nature, and mankind—accuracy in describing them, and sincerity in relating neither more nor less than the truth and fact ;—these the writer conceives are some of the pre-requisites to ensure a faithful narrative. The following Diary of a brief visit to America is published to gratify the desire of friends to peruse it, and not to cater to what Scott sarcastically calls the “non est tanti feelings, or no feelings of fashionable folks.” To the pure and unsophisticated mind, the writer trusts there is nothing to offend or