

## INTRODUCTION.

ture of America be compared with that of Europe?' and he exultingly laid an emphasis on the last sentence.

'No sir. I acknowledge in that respect, our present inferiority. The school-boy conning over his lesson, cannot in acquirements be compared with his preceptor; but may he not in the course of years, vie even with his teacher?—America is young, but is fast verging towards maturity; and the country that in its infancy produced a WASHINGTON, and a FRANKLIN, may in its riper years, become a MONROE, whose effulgence shall extend to all parts of the globe.'

'And my young friend here, is to be the instrument to bring about this 'consummation devoutly to be wished?'

'Mistake me not, Mr. Noxbury. I am far from despising the vanity to imagine my talents equal to those of many of my countrymen in all parts of North America. But still may I not endeavour to follow in the path of knowledge, and imitate, though at a humble distance, those great geniuses who have gone before us, whose mortal remains now lie mouldering in the dust, but who have left us transcripts of their minds, that will defy the power of the destroyer time, as long as any parts of our globe shall retain traces of civilization.'

'And so my young enthusiast, instead of devoting your time to some more lucrative employment, wherein, with greater industry, you might acquire a sufficiency of that desideratum of life, that magnet of attraction, cash, you mean to sacrifice all your powers of exertion to study, and authorship, for the chimerical prospect of at length obtaining a niche in the temple of renown?'

If such were my design, sir, my choice might not be deemed singular. Even in America, are there not many living persons who are proofs, that the literary character of Ame-