

PREFACE.

need no preface, had the
tion ; but, as his only aim
curiosity, I cannot forbear
for publishing it. I had
several persons whom taste
than their rank and birth ;
assuring me that the public
so. My affection for my
using the public, convinced
counsel ; I hope my ready
ed as folly or blindness. At
laudable, and I am sure of
do not seek to cast ridicule

uld tell how and for what
itten ; this will be an ex-
brother, if his style seems
e does not seem to enter into

o tell me what had happened
several months he resisted ;
th my frequent importunity,
brothers now in Russia, a
succinct. I complained of

his indolence in drawing me up only a journal ; I asked
him for something more circumstantial, and, to induce
him not to refuse me, I told him—what was true—that
many persons to whom I had read his letter, regretted
that he had made it so short, and that they had begged
me to entreat him to send me a more detailed Relation
of his travels in the New World, and his shipwreck
while returning to France ; he yielded to my wish, and
during his stay at Paderborn, wrote the letters which I
publish.

It would be wronging my brother to suspect him of
exaggeration in his narrative. Those by whom he has
the honor of being known, are aware what a lover of
truth he is, and that he would die sooner than betray or
disguise it ; moreover, the character with which he is
invested does not suppose an impostor, and I can say
that my brother has never rendered himself unworthy
of it. Lastly, there are still many companions of his
travels and his shipwreck ; would an honest man expose
himself to be contradicted by one who underwent the
same fatigues, and ran the same dangers ? It is all that
one interested in imposing could do, and even he
would expose himself only tremblingly, and in a coun-
try remote from all who could expose his knavery.

When I had the pleasure of seeing my brother in
this city, at the passage of the French army, com-
manded by Marshal de Mailleboy, I had no little trouble
in obtaining his permission to publish the letters ; they
were written for me alone ; and it is known that,
among brothers, no ceremony exists. My proposition
at first shocked him. All men have their share of self-
love ; they do not like to speak before all the world