

PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION.

As my inspection of the system of instruction of the various branches of the French Army was made under an authority expressly granted to me by the Minister of War, and as my descriptions thereof, as well as of the principal Institutions of Paris, were composed from notes written on the spot, I trust that these sketches may, at the present moment, be acceptable not only to those who desire to investigate the real causes of England's military disasters in the Crimea, but to those who are about to visit the highly civilised and admirable arrangements which characterise most of the public establishments of the French metropolis.

*Oxendon, Northampton,
May, 1855.*