

TRAVELS IN AMERICA.

Extracts from Bülow's Interesting Travels in America; translated from the German, for the "PORT FOLIO," a paper published at Philadelphia:

[The Travels of Mr. Bülow, who we are informed was formerly an officer in the Prussian service, have excited much attention in the neighbouring States. We intend, from time to time to make such extracts from them, as may be deemed interesting in this Country. We shall forbear for the present, from all comment, and content ourselves with such part of the introductory remarks, of the ingenious Editor of the "PORT FOLIO," as relate to those parts of the work, which we intend to publish. This Gentleman says "It is proposed to publish a portion, and perhaps the whole of the journal of our Prussian traveller. Amid much partiality, malignity, and misrepresentation, it contains some wholesome, though perhaps unpalatable truth, and much interesting description, conveyed in a style, far from phlegmatic. Of the translation, it only remains for the Editor to add, that, being close and literal, something of the German idiom will strike the eye, and, occasionally something of harshness in construction and sound may offend the ear. Of the opinions of this prejudiced Prussian, it is unnecessary for the Editor to express his frequent disapprobation. It cannot be presumed, that a mere soldier, subordinate to the severity of Prussian discipline, could correctly appreciate the blessings of republican freedom."]

PREFACE.

I NOW deliver to the public the result of my observations concerning America: I was twice there: from September, 1791, to the 23d July, 1792; and from 30th September 1795, to 7th October, 1796.

When I returned to Europe, the first time, I brought away not unfavourable ideas of America. A moral atmosphere, little agitated by the wind of passions, left me the impression of more good-nature, and more innocent manners; than we remark in the corruption of Europe. I did not consider the Americans, to be sure, as heroic republicans, but they appeared to me less selfish and malignant than the Europeans. All this was illusion, occasioned by that apparent calm in the passions. For immediately upon my second arrival there, I found every

thing altogether changed. Circumstances had brought into action that moral depravity, which existed before, without being put into motion.

Still, however, I defended, for some time, the virtue of the Americans, against the *unanimous* testimony of all foreigners; but at length, I too yielded to the force of evidence, and the official letters of General Washington gave me a full and clear insight into the national character of the people.

Perhaps, however, the impression of present immorality was too lively to be described with cold impartiality; perhaps, after things have been seen close at hand, they should be considered likewise at a certain distance; and, therefore, the first months after my return to Europe, when the impressions received in America were yet fresh in my mind, were the fittest time to paint the Americans, such as, in my opinion, they are. In this work is, therefore, contained all that I can say to their advantage. That my judgments were not dictated by offended egotism; that I have never been personally deceived, or otherwise injured, by any American, is what will, perhaps, be questioned; for, at this day, no man is credited for a pure, disinterested love of truth. It will be likewise scarcely believed, that I write exempt from hatred; for truth has often the appearance of satire. I am indeed animated with hatred; but it is hatred against vice, not against individuals, only inasmuch as they are vicious.

March 27, 1797.

THE PEOPLE.—CHAP. I.

Insufficiency of published travels, with respect to the knowledge of national character.... Doctor Schöpfung....Brissot....Chattellux....Wangenheim....Bartram, &c....*History the principal part of character....Origin.*

In order to form a correct judgment concerning a people, the impar-