

TRAVELS

THROUGH THE

TWO LOUISIANAS, &c.

CHAP. I.

DEPARTURE FROM BOURDEAUX.—BANKS OF NEWFOUND-
LAND—COD FISHERY—ARRIVAL AT THE BAY OF SANDY
HOOK.—NEW YORK.—PROMENADES.—PUBLIC BUILD-
INGS.—MARKETS.—YELLOW FEVER.—COMMERCE.—
RELIGION.—CUSTOMS.—EDUCATION, &c.

I LEFT Bourdeaux on the 14th of August, 1801, and embarked in the *Oliver*, merchantman, of the United States, commanded by Captain Cucklin. We set sail on the following day with a fresh and favourable wind, which in a short time carried us out of sight of the coast. Occupied with the thoughts of France, which I now quitted for the first time, I kept my eyes fixed on the shore, untill, confused with the clouds, it entirely disappeared.

I afterwards began to direct my attention to my fellow-travellers. They were twenty-five in number, and most of them were bound for St. Domingo, where they hoped to collect the wrecks of their fortunes, and regain their plundered habitations. Every thing induces me to believe that they have unhappily met with death in that place where they were going to seek what contributes so much to the happiness of life.

Some travellers fatigue their readers with minute accounts of the variations of the barometer and the winds; but I shall only observe, that these were visible in the appearance and behaviour of the passengers, who, being young and unaccustomed to the sea, elevated their hopes to excess, or depressed them with the same facility, according as the changes of the weather were either favourable or adverse.

After a month's sail we arrived at the banks of Newfoundland,