

to his own ; the influence that the latter exercises upon them.

Let not the reader suppose, however, that these volumes contain mere political essays ; the Author has rightly judged that the picture of a people is best given by traits of daily life, of the humour, the poetry, and the passions that characterize them.

It is not the province of an Editor to criticize, it is not his privilege to praise, but he may be generously excused for saying a few words in behalf of an adopted work, that has had none of the advantages of paternal care.

The Author is far away, in the lands of which these volumes treat ; but every page will tell that his heart is still at home. The name of England, her prosperity, her character for honour and righteous dealing, are dearer to the lonely traveller than his own. Here, in the calm shelter of our English homes, this lover-like feeling may seem dormant ; there is nothing to strike the fire from the flint : but, in other lands, among the jealous strictures of rival nations, the feeling is ever pre-