

he had visited ; and the repeated questions, relating to this subject, which he was called upon to answer, together with the suggestions of some persons, in whose judgment he placed much confidence, that such a publication might be useful, first determined him to commit the following work to the press.

Had he carried into the wilderness a greater stock of general information, and expected, on his return, to appear in this manner before the publick, his inquiries would undoubtedly have been more extensive, and the result of them would be more satisfactory, to men of science. Had literary men been in the habit of traversing the regions which he has visited, he would have left it to them, to give an account of them to the publick. Having remained nineteen years in the interior of North America, without visiting, during that time, the civilized part of the world, and having, many times, changed the place of his residence, while there, he has had an opportunity for taking a wide survey of the country, and of its inhabitants ; and if the information which he has collected, be

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