

TO THE READER.

MR. SCHOOLCRAFT, in his work on the North American Indians, published for the Congress of the United States, has endeavoured to impeach the veracity of Mr. Catlin's description of the Mandan religious ceremonies, first made public some years since, and here republished.

We have always had the most implicit confidence in the truth of Mr. Catlin, who was an eye-witness to the scenes described; and it is therefore with no little satisfaction we submit for the reader's perusal the following extract from a recent letter written (with the manuscript of this work before him) by His Highness the Prince Maximilian of Newwied, the celebrated traveller among the North American Indians, the original of which is now in our possession.

The unimpeachable statements contained in the letter, and the certificates of three educated and intelligent men, who, as will be seen in the narrative, witnessed with Mr. Catlin the whole of those ceremonies as he has described them, added to Mr. Catlin's account, are conclusive evidence as to the existence and character of this ceremony before the extinction of the Mandan tribe; and, after a perusal of the work, the reader, we think, will admit that no ethnological fact is now better established than that of the *O-kee-pa* of the Mandans.

THE PUBLISHERS.