

pen may

nces have
eeply as I
subjects,
you are
ls for my

GSTON.

PREFACE.

THE reader must not expect to find, in the following pages, any profoundly philosophical or otherwise learned research into the origin, history, institutions, or manners, of the people of America. My book is the result of a visit made to that continent by myself and my wife when (I see no valid reason to disguise the fact) we were on our wedding-tour. During it we kept our eyes and ears open, and I have attempted little more than to note down what we saw and heard.

Perhaps, as was to be expected, we looked at things generally through rose-coloured spectacles; and as they are, I opine, under all circumstances of life, more agreeable to use than a yellow or smoke-tinted lens, I shall be truly glad if the reader glances at our sketches through the same pleasant medium.

Advice as to the plan of our tour we received in abundance before starting. Our destination, in the first place, was Canada, after seeing which we proposed making as long a sojourn in the United States as time