

rectly copied from his own manuscript, now in my possession; and most of the incidents said to have befallen Captain Strickland (the hero of my tale) in his travels, really happened to *myself*:—while the few remarks introduced on the religion, manners, customs, &c. of the Canadians, are derived from a long residence in their country.

I am aware that my narrative will not possess half that interest with some readers, as would a Novel, full of hair-breadth escapes, and lover's sighs; or a Romance, in each of whose awfully sublime and soul-harrowing pages, a gaunt spectre meets the astonished eye. *This* is (however feebly executed) a Romance of *real life*: and though in some places I have endeavoured to tickle the fancies of my laughter loving countrymen, I have sedulously guarded against the introduction of any matter calculated to vitiate their principles. I have attempted to pourtray the manifest hardships of a seafaring life, when embraced at too early an age—to recommend the christian duty of brotherly forgiveness, and enforce the belief of a providential guardianship, over those who persevere in a *just* cause.

Really, when I look back, I find that I shall actually succeed, either in writing a preface, or an apology for one. I have already filled more than half the paper I had devoted to that purpose. Your own penetration has, doubtless, informed you, ere this, that the author is an obscure, unlearned individual. Oh! that I possessed but learning enough to embellish my pages with a few

sc
h
in
ch
ju.
w.
ha
st
be
rec
ver
wil