

Galt's writings. To what it owed this pre-eminence, if not from the greater admixture of English dialogue and portraiture, it would be difficult to say.

The annotations are restricted, principally for the reason already mentioned, to a few illustrative remarks by Mr Galt himself.

"Of all my manifold sketches, I repine most at an alteration which I was induced, by the persuasion of a friend, to make, on the original tale of Sir Andrew Wylie; as it now stands, it is more like an ordinary novel than that which I first projected, inasmuch as, instead of giving, as intended, a view of the rise and progress of a Scotchman in London, it exhibits a beginning, a middle, and an end, according to the most approved fashion for works of that description. But no particular story is engrafted on my original idea, and perhaps, the book by the alteration is greatly improved; it is not, however, the work I had planned, in which certainly there would have been no such episode as the gipsies introduced—an episode, however, which I have heard frequently mentioned as the best contrived part of the narrative.

"The second edition was inscribed to my amiable friend the Earl of Blessington, in consequence of a remark which his lordship made to me when he was reading it; speaking of Lord Sandford's character, he observed, that it must be very natural, for, in the same circumstances, he would have acted in a similar manner, and he seemed not to have the least idea, that he was himself the model of the character: perhaps I never received so pleasing a compliment. Of course the story has nothing to do with his lordship; indeed in selecting scenes and incidents for the likenesses I endeavour to portray, I only aspired to make my *dramatis personæ* speak and act after the manner of the models; just as Sir Joshua Reynolds persuaded the first Lord Duncan to stand to him as Jupiter, in the celebrated picture of Hercules strangling the serpents, which he painted for that arch-empress Catherine II., as emblematic of the progress of civilization in the Russian empire."

"*Origin of the interview between Sir Andrew Wylie and King George the Third; with anecdotes of other members of the royal family.*"

"At the suggestion of a friend, I am induced to mention several accidental circumstances, which he thinks will be amusing to my readers, particularly to give an explanation of the origin of the