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LITERARY.

Journal of a tour and residence in Great-Britain during the years 1810 and 1811, by a French traveller, with remarks on the country, its arts, literature, and politics, and on the manners and customs of its inhabitants.

This is the most entertaining Journal that we have perused for a long time. Notwithstanding the efforts of a few malignant scribblers on both sides of the water, a large portion of the community in this country and in Great-Britain, will always be disposed to maintain a friendly intercourse.

If I was asked, at this moment, for a summary opinion of what I have seen in England, I might probably say, that its political institutions present a detail of corrupt practices—of profusion—and of personal ambition, under the mask of public spirit very carelessly put on, more disgusting than I should have expected.

The government of England is eminently practical. The one under which I have lived many years might be defined, on the contrary, a government of abstract principles. Certain opinions have taken possession of men's minds, and they cling to them, as to the religion in which they were born, without examination.

The different governments of the continent of Europe, old and infirm, are half-factionous, half-despotic—one alone, purely despotic, overpowers the others by its unity and its energy.

Of the nation itself, its distinctive and national character, it would be difficult to give any but a comparative opinion. No national character is, I fear, very excellent in itself, and the least bad must be deemed good.

for both. I once called one of the countries my own, and spent in it my early youth. I have visited the other in my maturer age, and the best friends I have on earth were born there.

The pretensions of the two parties are certainly comprehensive. The English, for instance, lay claim to a certain superiority of moral rectitude, of sincerity, of generosity, of humanity, of judgment, of firmness and courage.

The French, on the other hand, admit of no comparison as to nicety of taste, versatility of genius, and perfection in all the arts of civilization.

The lower people in England hold other nations in thorough contempt. The same rank in France, in the interior of the country at least, scarcely know there are other nations—their geography is that of the Chinese.

Of all the various merits claimed by the proud Islanders, I believe none is less disputed than that of generosity. It is not only a received thing that an Englishman has always plenty of money, and gives it away very freely, but no sacrifice of higher kind is supposed to be above his magnanimity.

The English are better reasoners than the French, and therefore more disposed to be just—the first of moral qualities; and yet the propensity to luxury and ostentation is so strong, as well as so general here, as to expose this same sense of justice to hard trials.

I do not conceive it possible for some of the most horrible scenes of the French revolution to be acted here, in any event. The people in France are capable of greater atrocities than those of England, but I should think the latter sterner—less prone to cruelty, but less susceptible of pity.

There are perhaps, at this moment, more distinguished men of science at Paris than in London; and I think it is admitted by the English themselves. But there are certainly better scientific materials here, and in the long run, accuracy and depth should prevail over quickness of parts.

There is undoubtedly in the English a coldness and reserve which discourage and repel at first sight; in the French, on the contrary, a warmth and openness which invite confidence, and put you at ease instantly.

of interest, and all you can really hope to improve in general and mixed society. The advantage of superior and more general cultivation, of a greater range of ideas and surer taste, must, however, remain on the side of the English.

I have introduced occasionally in this journal, desultory remarks on several branches of English literature, as my attention was called to them by the occasion. A deeper examination of the subject would not have suited the plan of this work.

Upon the whole, I believe the national difference to have less reality than appearance.—The same vices, and the same virtues—the same propensities and views, under very different forms, are found in both countries, and more nearly alike than is generally supposed.

FOREIGN LITERATURE, SCIENCE, &c.

By English papers, it appears that Lord Byron has written a poem which contains something so offensive to the politics of the times in England, as to be rejected by the London book-sellers, and we understand that it is now on the route to America to be printed.

France. Five years since the Class of Sciences of the Royal Institute of France proposed as the subject of a double prize, the theory of the planets whose eccentricity and inclination are too considerable to allow of the exact calculation of their distances by methods already known.

As nothing worthy of the annual prize founded to reward researches undertaken for the advancement of galvanism has been received, the class suggests the following points as still wanting to complete the theory of this important part of science.

A Greek literary society has been recently established at Athens. It is composed of the most distinguished native and foreign literati residing in that city.

HISTORICAL.

SKETCH OF THE ISLAND OF JAMAICA. Jamaica was discovered by the great navigator Columbus, in his second voyage to the new world, in 1494. It was called by the Indians who accompanied him, the other islands. Nine years after its discovery, Columbus, in consequence of a storm, which occurred during his passage from Veragua to Hispaniola, in his fourth voyage, was obliged to take shelter in the harbor, and with the loss of two of his ships, the harbor which he ran into with two vessels, is now called Ocho Rios.

Sir Anthony Shirley, in the year 1596, landed at Jamaica, took St. Jago, and plundered the island, without much resistance; and afterwards, in 1635, Col. Jackson landed with 300 men, and though he was opposed by 2000 Spaniards from their works, compelled them to retreat, and with the loss of 40 men, entered, sacked, and pillaged the town.