

TRAVELS
IN
EGYPT AND SYRIA.

BY
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PREFACE.

THE TITLE of this book may not be attractive to every reader of Travels, for the countries visited have in these days been brought within such easy reach, that they have lost the charm of strangeness. Their interest, however, they can never lose, and their history must always form the most wonderful chapter in the records of the world.

Not the least wonderful fact in that history, is one which confronts the traveller at every point. It is a constant source of sadness and surprise to him, that scenes hallowed by the Saviour's footsteps should now be possessed by the followers of the false Prophet. By the Christian traveller, and the Mahometan inhabitant, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Nazareth, must therefore be viewed with very different feelings. But charity and not contempt should be predominant in the minds of both, and especially should it be displayed by the disciples of Him whose life and death enforced this highest of all virtues.

The Mussulman adheres to the teaching of the Koran with a fidelity which commands respect; and those who are brought in contact with him, either personally or

through the medium of books, cannot fail to see much in his character to esteem, and even to admire.

One thing is very easy for the writer to promise, and that is, that nothing will be found in this volume which does not proceed from his own reflections, uninfluenced by anything that has engaged the attention of others; and the title-page will have informed the reader that the impressions received during these travels have been made upon one who has visited many parts of the earth, and is fully sensible of the happy condition we enjoy in Europe, and especially in our own isle, compared with that which is the lot of people spread over so wide a portion of the globe as the Mussulmans.

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