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P R E F A C E.

THE present publication is intended to supply the want of a complete Guide Book for the North of Italy, that is to say—the Sardinian States, which comprehend Piedmonte, the ancient republic of Genoa, Nice, and various dismemberments of ancient Lombardy.—The Austrian States, or Lombardy and Venice,—Parma and Piacenza,—Modena,—Massa-Carrara,—Lucca,—and Tuscany, as far as the Val d' Arno. Since the death of Mrs. Starke, her popular work has, owing to the rapid change of circumstances, become in a measure antiquated for the districts before mentioned. It is rather a description of the Capitals than an Itinerary. The work entitled *Voyages en Italie* by M. Valery, though possessing very considerable merit, does not constitute a regular or complete Guide Book: and the *Itinerario d' Italia* of Vallardi, though rendered more accessible to the English traveller by a French translation, only affords a small portion of the information which he requires. The volume now submitted to the public, though by a different author, is exactly upon the plan of the Hand-books already published, which have been honoured with so large a share of approbation. The principle of describing not what *may* be seen, but what *ought* to be seen, has been strictly followed by the author of the present work; and its bulk has arisen from the exuberance of objects which Italy affords.

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August, 1842.