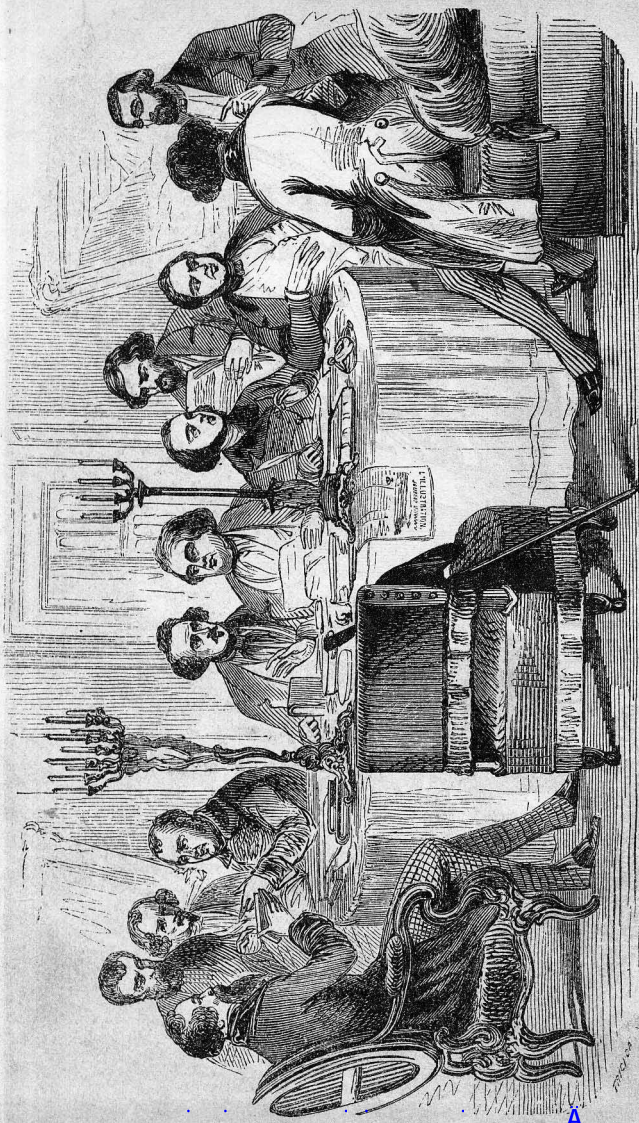


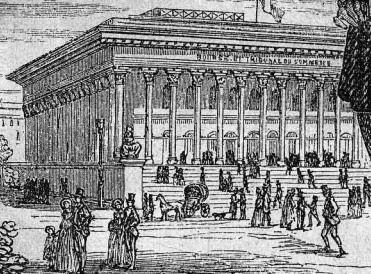
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CORPS OF EDITORS IN PARIS.

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SKETCHES
in
PARIS



LONDON:
WARD AND LOCK,
158, FLEET STREET.

SKETCHES OF PARIS

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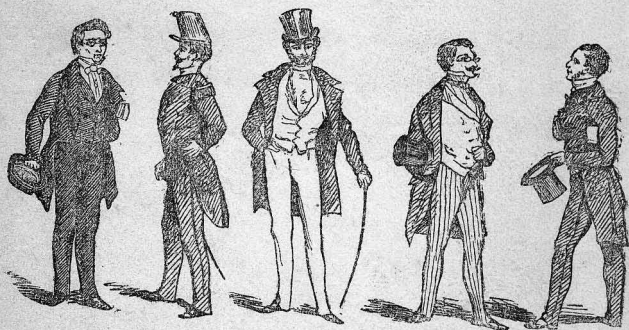
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PARISIANS.

BY

S. G. GOODRICH.



LONDON:
WARD AND LOCK, 158, FLEET STREET.

1856.

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P R E F A C E.

A ~~ser~~ preface to a book of running shots at manners living as they rise, would be as absurd as to charge a flock of quails with a brigade. I only propose, therefore, at this beginning, which is after all but an ending, to make a supplementary sketch, of my sketches.

The title-page sufficiently indicates the general tenor of this book; a glance at the heading of the chapters will tell the rest—that it consists of articles written from Paris, for publication in a New-York daily journal. They were intended only for this transient and fugitive purpose, without any idea of reproduction in another form. But the leading events they record are not only in themselves remarkable, even amid the astonishing annals of modern France, but they have acquired importance from the fact, that, taken together, they constitute the birth, cradling, and consecration of an Empire,

at this moment one of the most imposing in the civilized world.

What was begun, therefore, as a somewhat light and laughing journal of Paris and the Parisians, gradually and unconsciously became a CHRONICLE OF THE THIRD BOOK OF THE NAPOLEONS. So far as it pretends to be historical, it is veritable history; and however they may fall beneath the level of sober chronology, the intercalated lights and shadows may serve in some degree to illustrate the more serious events; inasmuch as the manners, feelings, opinions, and actions of the French people, during the rise and progress of the new Empire, may be very useful, if not essential, to the formation of a just estimate of the Empire itself—its nature, adaptation, tendency, and prospects.

I am quite aware that the views here given, even making all the allowance I could ask for the occasional mockery provoked by events which came under my notice, will jar upon the feelings of many. So far as the French people are concerned, these sketches would certainly do injustice, if I offered them as a complete delineation of national character and manners. What I have said on these points is I think true, bating perhaps the style of badinage in which I have sometimes indulged, and which will mislead no one; but many things which I have not said, because I had no occasion to say them, would be material to a full portrait of a nation which, all things considered, must be regarded as one of the very leaders of modern civilization.