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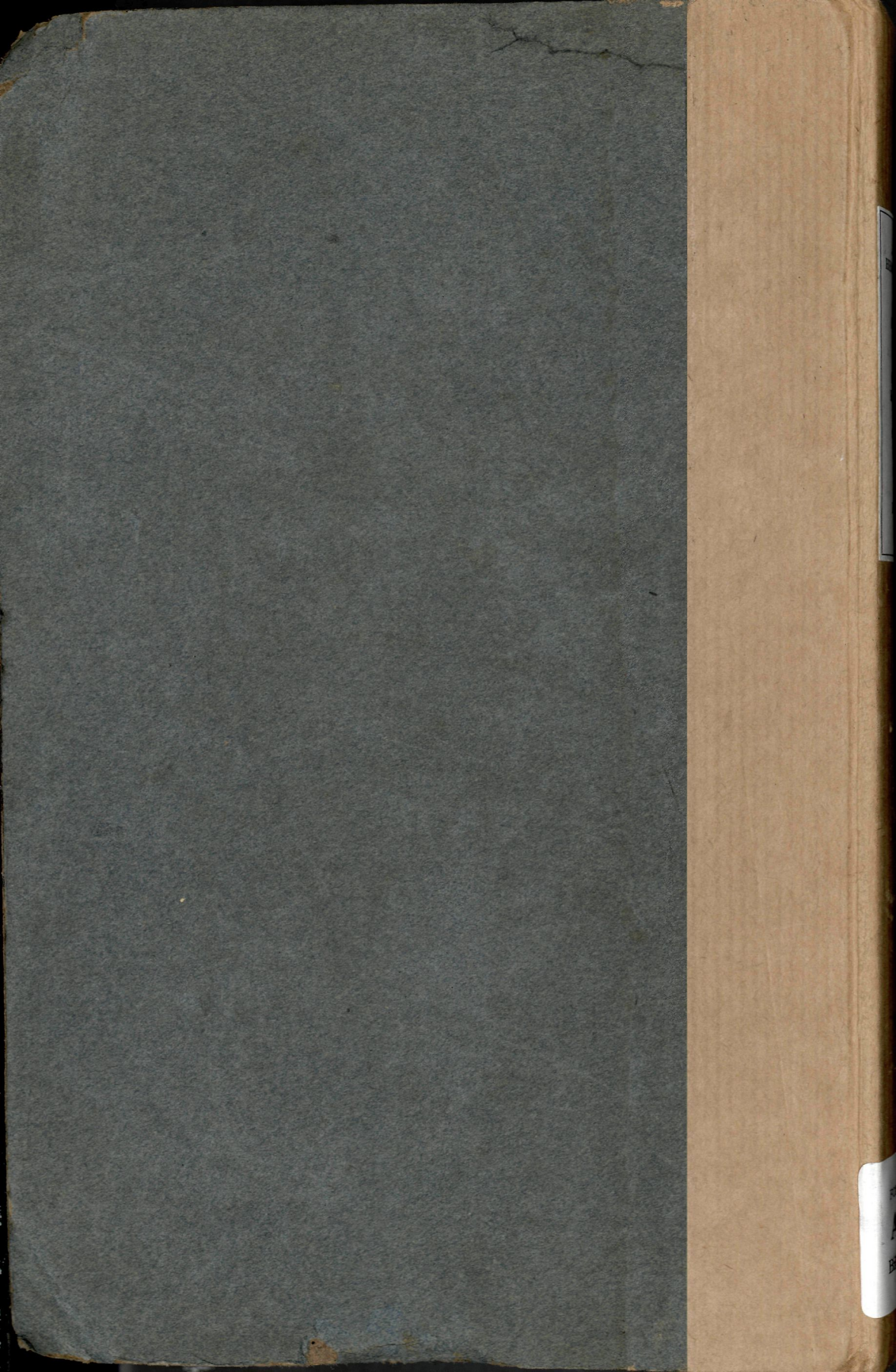
**History
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in
the Year
1812**

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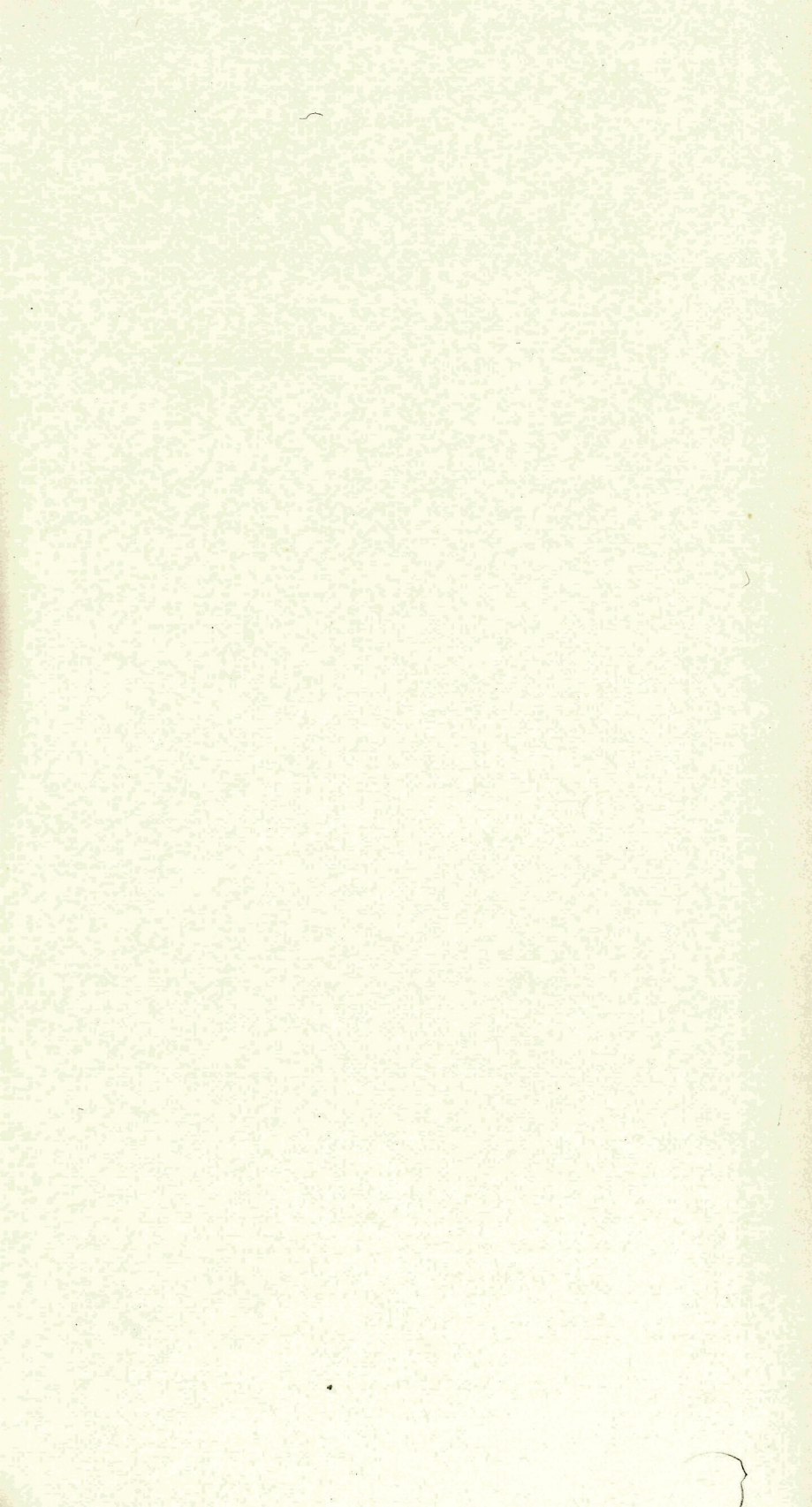


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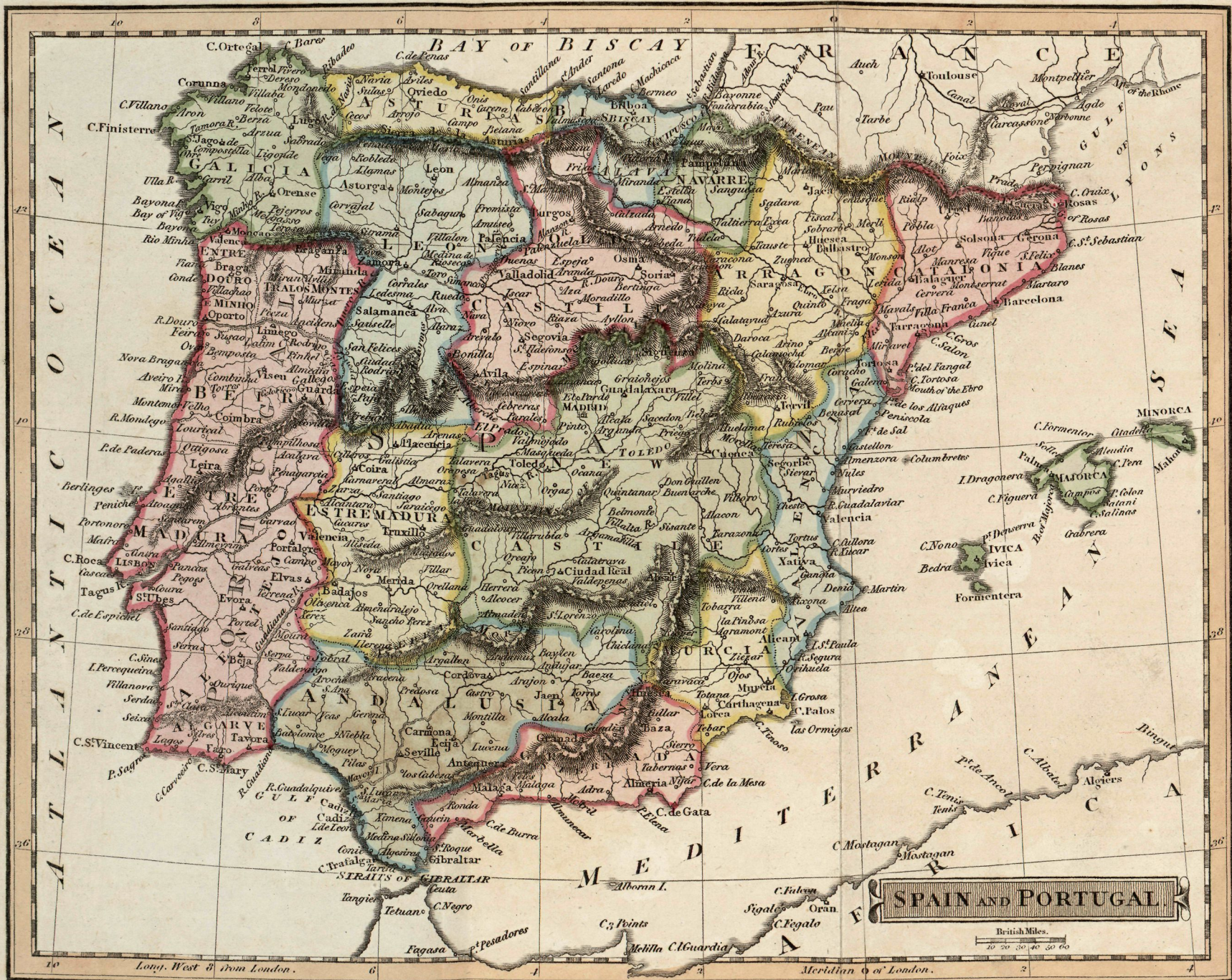
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HISTORY

OF THE

SPANISH REVOLUTION;

COMMENCING WITH

THE ESTABLISHMENT

OF THE

CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE CORTES,

IN THE YEAR 1812

AND BROUGHT DOWN TO

ITS OVERTHROW BY THE FRENCH ARMS

BY JOSEPH HEMINGWAY.



LONDON:

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(*Printer in Ordinary to His Majesty*);

Published at 38, Newgate-street; and Sold by all Booksellers.

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PREFACE

THE events which have distinguished the Peninsula, since its invasion by the late Emperor of France, have strongly interested the minds of the British public. With this struggle, the glory of England, and the emancipation of all the states of Europe, are identified. It was in that country where the gigantic power of Napoleon received its first check, and where his unnatural greatness received such a mortal wound, as led to his final overthrow.

Deriving the spirit of civil and political freedom from their unprincipled invaders, and acquiring an opportunity of exercising it from their defeat, the Spanish nation formed a political code, which, considering the errors that can never fail to attend a transition from centuries of slavery to a sudden state of liberty, has been applauded by men well versed in the science; and which, if suffered to have been carried into quiet operation, would have corrected its own discrepancies. The infatuated conduct of Ferdinand, after his return to a throne which had been preserved for him by the authors of the Constitution, blasted all the hopes which had been formed by the friends of a limited monarchy and a constitutional government. False to his promises, he disentangled himself from all his engagements, with the first opportunity that presented itself: actuated by bigotry, he drew around him an avaricious and disappointed priesthood, and pursued, with relentless fury, those who had laboured to circumscribe the enormous extravagancies of the hierarchy, for the good of the state: ambitious, he sought only the aggrandisement of the regal office, and exercised an indiscriminate vengeance against all who had sought to set up a government of law, against the capricious dictum of the sovereign: and, ignorant and imbecile, he waged war against principle and justice, until he produced a re-action in the army and the nation, which ended only in the re-establishment of the constitutional code. It was to effect the annihilation of this political structure, that the second invasion was projected by the Holy Alliance, and the execution of which devolved upon France.

Of the foregoing occurrences, and those that followed, to the period of the return of Ferdinand to Madrid, this work is given to the world as a history. It may be noted, that the military transactions form but an unimportant part of the work—and, indeed, events of this description afford but scanty materials to interest the general reader. On the other hand, the political affairs connected with the Spanish revolutions are pregnant with considerations of the highest moment. We are enabled distinctly to mark the progress made in the acquisition of enlightened sentiments, in a country long sunk in, and but lately emerging from, the darkness of ignorance and superstition; and to trace the capabilities of a comparatively weak nation, when inspired with a feeling of liberty, and a regard for independence. In the personal conduct of Ferdinand, the monarchs of the world will, or ought, to learn this important lesson, that sovereigns reign most securely, who command the affections, rather than excite the fear and dread, of their subjects. To an Englishman, who, because he possesses, knows how to estimate the blessings of a paternal government, the principles and conduct of the powers forming what is termed the Holy Alliance, will appear in their uncovered deformity; and in proportion as his hatred is excited against them, his affections and attachments will be more fixedly riveted to his native land,—where all

PREFACE.

the blessings of a well-regulated freedom flourish in perfection. We may also learn, what slender reliance is to be placed upon the hollow professions of diplomatic intercourse; how remote from sincerity and plain-dealing are the pretensions of ministers of state, when they have a favourite object to accomplish—exhibitions which abound in the official correspondence of the French government.

In collecting the materials for this history, the author has sustained some difficulties and inconveniences. Many of the transactions are of very recent date: access to information has, in some cases, been impossible; and in others, it has only been found recorded in the partial recitals of interested parties. It is assumed, however, that wherever accurate intelligence has been open to research, it has been diligently sought; and in cases where description has been known to proceed only from the pen of the partisan, caution has been given against the high colourings of partiality. In noticing the intercourse among those powers most intimately interested in the late struggle against Spain, as France, England, Russia, Austria, and Prussia, particular care has been taken to preserve the official documents, from which the reader will at once be led to mark the different principles and views by which they were respectively actuated. The military events of the campaign, which, as before observed, constitute the least interesting and important part of the work, have been given sometimes from the French, and sometimes from the Spanish official reports, both not unfrequently corrected from the narratives of others.

For the general state of the country, before the occurrence of the Spanish revolution, Laborde has been sometimes referred to; while its internal condition and political transactions, within the period which the work embraces, have been drawn, to a considerable extent, from the Letters of Doblado, the Anecdotes of Count Pecchio, and the still more excellent publication, entitled, "A Visit to Spain, by Mr. Quin." To these sources, among others, the author has also addressed himself, in furnishing the reader with the characters and notices of some of the individuals who have sustained a prominent figure in the late political events of that country. Of course it has been found necessary to consult a number of other authorities, but the above are named as the principal; and in their selection and arrangement, it has been an object carefully attended to, to preserve chronological correctness.

Perhaps the Author cannot better conclude this short address, than in the terms he employed on a former occasion, in submitting to the world a publication of greater magnitude:—Of the *manner* in which the present History is executed, the Author presumes not to speak;—this is a subject on which the Public has the only right to decide—and to *their* decision he will bow with respectful deference. He may be allowed, however, to say, that it has been his invariable desire to give a fair narrative of the occurrences which have come under his view, without addition, mutilation, or partiality. Nor does he fear that the voice of censure can justly be raised against him for the want of industry, in consulting the various documents to which any access could be had. But, without further remark, the work itself is now before its proper tribunal, and it will be judged of more by *what it is*, than what can be *said* about it.

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