

FOREIGN REMINISCENCES

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Foreign Reminiscences by Henry Richard Holland & Henry Edward Holland

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HENRY RICHARD HOLLAND & HENRY EDWARD HOLLAND

FOREIGN REMINISCENCES

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REMINISCENCES,

BY

HENRY RICHARD

LORD HOLLAND.

EDITED BY HIS SON,

HENRY EDWARD LORD HOLLAND.

NEW YORK:
HARPER & BROTHERS, PUBLISHERS,
FRANKLIN SQUARE.

1855.

TO

JEROME BUONAPARTE,

MARSHAL OF FRANCE,

GOVERNOR OF THE "INVALIDES;"

THE ONLY SURVIVING BROTHER OF THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON;

This Work

IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

BY HIS GRATEFUL AND OBLIGED SERVANT,

HOLLAND.

Holland House, May 5, 1850.

P R E F A C E

THE recent events on the Continent have induced the Editor to publish the following pages on foreign politics. The times of which this volume treats have already acquired the interest of a long past age ; and the public will read with pleasure, and perhaps with profit, the observations on passing events of a contemporary who, if not wholly impartial, is acknowledged by all who knew him to have been as candid as he was benevolent.

The Editor has scrupulously abstained from making the slightest verbal alteration in the text or notes. The omission of four insignificant sentences is all that he has deemed necessary for the immediate publication of what was probably written with the intention of not seeing the light so soon.

PARIS, *Sept.* 10, 1850.

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A SHORT account, however desultory, of such persons, anecdotes, or political intrigues in foreign countries, as have fallen within my observation or knowledge, may not be uninteresting. But as a foreigner, however favorable his opportunities or sound his judgment, seldom relates any English event, or describes any English character, without committing some gross blunder, I check myself with the reflection that I also must be liable to be misled by false information, or to form an erroneous estimate of manners, opinions, and transactions out of my own country. I can only vouch for the anecdotes I record, by assuring my readers that I believe them; I repeat them as they were received and understood by me, from what appeared sufficient authority; and I delineate the characters either as the result of my own impressions, or of the opinions conveyed to me by those who were most capable of drawing them correctly.

In my first short journey abroad in 1791, I was a mere boy, and too little acquainted with the habits and language of the people among whom I was traveling to observe much, yet many interesting events were passing around