SKETCH OF THE RESOURCES OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK: WITH A VIEW OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT POPULATION

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OF THE

RESOURCES

OF THE

CITY OF NEW-YORK.

WITH A VIEW OF ITS

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT,

POPULATION, &c. &c.

FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE CITY TO THE DATE OF THE LATEST STATISTICAL ACCOUNTS

NEW-YORK:

G. & C. CARVILL, BROADWAY.

1827.

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PREFACE.

In the following brief sketch of a City, the progress of which during the last thirty-five years has been almost without example in the history of society, many material circumstances connected with its general prosperity have been unavoidably omitted. The limits, which the author has assigned to himself, and the want of statistical information have prevented him from giving many subjects even a cursory examination, and rendered it impracticable to enter minutely into the details of any. His aim has, therefore, been to present a general view of the resources of the city, unincumbered, as far as possible without impairing its accuracy, with particular facts.

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CHAPTER I.

COMMERCIAL ORIGIN AND CHARACTER.

THE origin of every city may be traced either to commercial or manufacturing interests. It is the effect of agricultural pursuits, before the existence of trade and manufactures, to scatter mankind in a distribution, regulated by attractions of soil and climate, over the face of the earth. While the wants of life are supplied by the direct productions of the soil, and while the mechanical arts and the business of exchange are unknown, it results from the regular and irresistible operation of a natural law, that large cities cannot exist. The condition of society would furnish neither the elements of their growth nor of their preservation. It is not until the mechanical arts are cultivated, and the operations of traffic and exchange become a part of the practical system of men, that towns and cities spring into life, and communicate to society a new and more complex character.