

**ESSAYS, DESCRIPTIVE
AND MORAL: ON SCENES
IN ITALY, SWITZERLAND,
AND FRANCE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649280391

Essays, descriptive and moral: on scenes in Italy, Switzerland, and France by An American

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AN AMERICAN

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IN ITALY, SWITZERLAND,
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ESSAYS,
DESCRIPTIVE AND MORAL;
ON
SCENES IN ITALY, SWITZERLAND,
AND FRANCE.

By **AN AMERICAN.**

"There is the moral of all human life—
" 'Tis but the same rehearsal of the poet,
" Elect Freedom, and then Glory—when that fall
" Wealth, Vice, Corruption—Barbarism at last."

EDINBURGH:

PRINTED FOR

ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE AND CO. EDINBURGH;
HURST, ROBINSON, AND CO. LONDON;
JOHN CUMMING, DUBLIN; AND
JAMES EASTBOURNE, AND CO. NEW YORK.

1823.

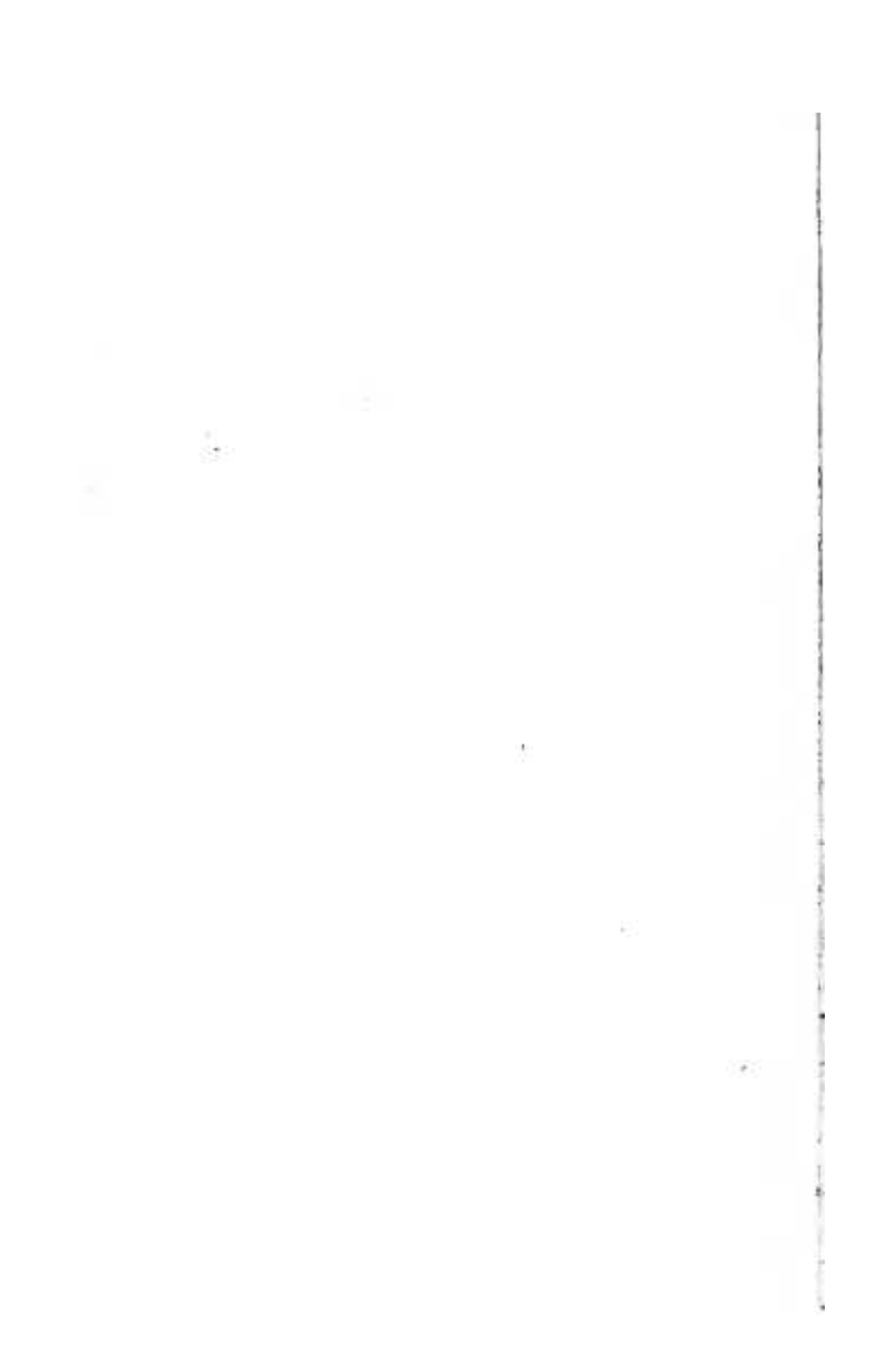
THE JOURNAL
OF THE
ROYAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE



L. 10

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PREFACE.

ITALY, during all the periods of its eventful history, has been a country so interesting and so unique, that it is by no means surprising that it has been an object of attraction to the intelligent of all the surrounding nations, from the æra of the revival of learning in Europe to the present time. So numerous and diversified have been the compositions to which the scenery of its surface, and the antiquities, the arts, the customs and

manners of its inhabitants have given rise, that it may appear presumptuous for an unknown author to increase the extensive catalogue, by the addition of another volume. He feels it therefore necessary to explain the motives which induce him to hazard this little publication, on a subject which may seem to be exhausted.

The author has long been of opinion that the generality of travellers have visited Italy with expectations so low respecting the moral condition of its inhabitants; or with minds so eagerly intent on the glories of ancient learning, and the graces of modern art, that they have in too many instances either overlooked, or but slightly noticed, this most interesting subject of contemplation. Many of

them have witnessed, therefore, with apparent apathy, exhibitions of character and manners, which, in their own countries, would have filled them with indignation and sorrow.

The natural consequences of this are a relaxed morality at home, and the continuance or aggravation abroad of those evils, which the influences of Great Britain and America might have enabled their free and enlightened citizens to counteract. The consequences in a religious point of view are, it is to be feared, still more pernicious and deplorable. There is a charm attached to the poetical fables of heathen mythology, which delights men of erudition, and which even grave statesmen and profound philoso-