

**SEMI-SERIOUS
OBSERVATIONS OF AN
ITALIAN EXILE DURING HIS
RESIDENCE IN ENGLAND**

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Semi-serious observations of an Italian exile during his residence in England by Giuseppe Pecchio

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GIUSEPPE PECCHIO

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—
BY COUNT PECCHIO.
—

PHILADELPHIA:
KEY AND BIDDLE, NO. 6 MINOR STREET.
1833.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

Giuseppe, Count Pecchio, the author of the following pages, is not altogether unknown to the English public. In the year 1823 he published some letters on the Spanish revolution; in 1824, a journal of military and political events in Spain during the preceding twelve-month; and in 1825 (in the *New Monthly Magazine*) a narrative of a tour in Greece. A few years before he had fled his own country—the north of Italy—to escape the consequences of the share he had taken in the unsuccessful Piedmontese revolution. He had, in the first instance, taken refuge in England, but the climate being injurious to his health, he conceived the hope of finding a more congenial residence in Spain, where he was connected by friendship with some of the most distinguished public characters;—his expulsion from that country he terms a second exile. Since his return from Greece he has, we believe, uninterruptedly continued in England, has married an English lady, and now resides at Brighton.

The observations contained in the volume before the reader will often be found particularly striking, from the contrast they present to those of other travellers. Whatever opinion may be formed of Count Pecchio's mode of thinking, it cannot at any rate be denied that he thinks for himself. This translation presents a complete duplicate of all his statements and opinions; faults, errors,

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and omissions not excepted. It was at first intended to add a few notes, pointing out where the count had fallen into error, but it was soon found that if this plan were pursued, the work would have been, perhaps, more augmented than improved. Most of his mistakes are such as the reader will, with a smile, correct: we are in no danger of believing, on Count Pecchio's authority, that in England all the boys can ride, and none of the children ever cry. Besides, his slips, though they may throw no light on English character, very often give us an insight, the more valuable from being unconscious, into the Italian. We have however, ventured with some hesitation, to correct a few verbal errors. Thus, in his account of the Nottingham assizes, when the count informs us that he saw a man capitally convicted of the crime of *abigeato*, he adds, in a parenthesis, as the English equivalent, the word *horsedealing*: as we were not previously aware that this crime, however heinous, was visited with a punishment so severe as that of death, we have, on our own responsibility, changed the term to *horse-stealing*.

With these few introductory remarks, we commend Count Pecchio, in his English dress, to the benevolence of his English readers.

AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

"Ah!" replied Sancho, weeping, "don't die, your honour, but follow my advice, and live many years;—because the silliest thing a man can do in this life is to die without any reason, without being killed by any body, or finished off by any other hands than melancholy's." This advice of the faithful Sancho Panza always appeared to me the plainest and best of all the recipes philosophers have prescribed for adversity. Putting it then into practice, instead of pouring forth useless lamentations, or hanging down my head like a weeping willow, I have acquired the habit, in travelling, of throwing upon paper the observations that, from time to time, new objects awakened in me. In this way I have beguiled a good deal of the leisure of my exile; and fortunate I am, if, by these sketches, I can beguile some moments of the leisure of my countrymen. My book cannot enter into competition with any other; it is but a miscellany like the *olla-podrida* of the Spaniards, that favourite dish of my favourite Sancho Panza. Let him who wishes to become acquainted with English politics, read, M. de Pradt; him who wishes to know the statistics of England, refer to the work of Baron Dupin. Let him who desires to understand the machinery of the admirable administration of justice in England, consult the work of M. Cottu. Let him who wishes to become familiar with English

manners, read the elegant descriptions of the American, Washington Irving, in his "Sketch-Book." But let him who does not love science and information well enough to read these; who admires profiles rather than full lengths; who reads for reading sake, and in the way the journals of the fashions and the opera-books are read, skipping, singing, and yawning—let him, I say, read the following observations of

GIUSEPPE PECCHIO.

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