

SICILY, A PILGRIMAGE

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Sicily, a pilgrimage by H. T. Tuckerman

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H. T. TUCKERMAN

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By H. T. TUCKERMAN

AUTHOR OF "A MONTH IN ENGLAND," ETC.



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ALBERT JAO

PUBLISHER'S ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following pages are re-printed from the London edition. The work originally appeared in this country twelve years since, being one of the author's earliest productions. The new interest which the Revolution of 1848 excited in regard to the condition and history of Sicily, and the fact that no work on the subject is at present in the market, not less than the general favor with which the present volume was originally received, have induced the publisher, with the author's consent, to include it in the Semi-monthly Library.

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.



THE celebrated remark of Dr. Johnson respecting the Hebrides is singularly applicable to Sicily. The antiquities of the island are eminently worthy of observation; but the inconveniences attending a visit to them are such as to suggest, even in the mind of the enthusiastic traveller, frequent doubts whether the gratification thus afforded is not more than counterbalanced by the discomfort consequently incurred. The scenery, too, is peculiar, and often unsurpassed for beauty and picturesque effect; yet it is only at certain periods that the weather is such as to do justice to its characteristic charms. The long and rigid quarantines to which the voyager is liable, the want of commodious inns, and the absence of carriage-roads to some of the most interesting localities, are also essential drawbacks to the pleasure of the tourist, espe-

cially if he be fresh from the superior facilities of the continent. To one who sympathizes warmly with his race, there are, in addition, many painful associations constantly awakened by the existent poverty and degradation of the Sicilians, but ill-calculated to cheer his sojourn. If these considerations, however, are sufficient to deter the unadventurous from exploring this remarkable island, they afford no inconsiderable motive to one whom circumstances have lured within its fertile precincts, to attempt to convey an idea to others of what there has interested his own mind. It is with such a view that the following pages were written. The form in which these descriptions and thoughts, suggested by a tour in Sicily, are presented, was adopted for the purpose of avoiding that egotistical tone from which it is almost impossible to escape in a formal journal, as well as to obviate the necessity of dwelling upon those unimportant details and circumstances which are common to every tour in Europe, and therefore too familiar to be interesting.

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