TALES AND SOUVENIRS OF A RESIDENCE IN EUROPE

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Tales and Souvenirs of a Residence in Europe by Judith Page Walker Rives

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JUDITH PAGE WALKER RIVES

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TALES

AND

SOUVENIRS

OF A

RESIDENCE IN EUROPE.

BY A LADY OF VIRGINIA.

ERices, into Proge (world)

Ami, De ce sommet qui nous rassemble, Viens, jetons un regard ensemble sur le passé.

LAMABTINE.

464 10

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LEA & BLANCHARD.

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PREFACE.

"The gratification of friends," must once more serve as an apology for permitting the following "Souvenirs," or rather sketches, to see the light.

Extracted as they are, for the most part, from a Journal, undertaken solely for the entertainment of one, whose kind indulgence, it was well known, would overlook all faults, and embodied in their present form only to beguile a solitary hour, or to amuse a fire-side circle, they might, doubtless, in the eye of criticism, be liable to the charge of both negligence and egotism, especially where the Journal is left as it was originally written. It was found, however, that a suppression of the personal pronoun, and, indeed, any attempt at improvement, would only have the effect of substituting the tedious formality of a guide du voyageur, for the careless ease of familiar correspondence.

The "Tale of our Ancestors," which might, with some propriety, be numbered among the "Tales of a grandfather," is interwoven with a manuscript narrative in possession of the writer, which bears a date of some eighty years since, and which gives a far more interesting account of the Indian Chieftain, Logan, and the young warrior, Allanawissca, than romance itself could produce. The first part of the story derives, from some historical reminiscences of the gaudy court of Louis Quinze whatever attraction it may present; and the whole of this story, as well as the "Soldier's Bride," and the "Valley of Goldau," may claim at least one merit—that of being founded on truth.

The imitation of an old English Ballad is designed for young friends, who "sigh for Europe,—for Paris; and there, or at Naples, would like to end their days."

The scenes of which a description is attempted to be given, both in the Tales, which now form the greater part of these "Sketches," and in the Journal, were hastily delineated at the time, and frequently on the spot where they were witnessed; and to this alone may be attributed any interest they possess;—as objects, reflected in the vivacity of their first impression on the mind or the senses through a faithful, however imperfect representation, have power by their own glowing beauty, romantic wildness, or dark terrors, to impart a charm to an unskilled pencil, while an elaborate and finished picture, attempted by the same hand, would only betray the defects of the artist, and place them in bolder relief.

Farther apology for these "Souvenirs," is needless, as it is not probable that their merits will carry them beyond the limited circle for which they were designed. Such as they are, "with all their imperfections," they are offered to those kind friends who have requested their appearance, as a memorial of the affectionate attachment and regard of the writer.