

**RANDOM SHOTS AND SOUTHERN
BREEZES, CONTAINING CRITICAL
REMARKS ON THE SOUTHERN STATES AND
SOUTHERN INSTITUTIONS, WITH SEMI-
SERIOUS OBSERVATIONS ON MEN AND
MANNERS; IN TWO VOLUMES, VOL. I**

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Random shots and southern breezes, containing critical remarks on the southern states and southern institutions, with semi-serious observations on men and manners; In two Volumes, Vol. I by Louis Fitzgerald Tasistro

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LOUIS FITZGERALD TASISTRO

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BY
LOUIS FITZGERALD TASISTRO,
AUTHOR OF
"THE REVOLUTION OF JULY," "FRESOLOGGIATO'S TRAVELS IN THE MOON,"
"REMINISCENCES OF BEAR-HUNTING IN MOLDAVIA,"
&c., &c., &c.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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← E.H.



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P R E F A C E.

IN giving to the world these desultory sketches of Southern life and Southern institutions, it has been my object throughout to exhibit *Truth* dressed in her native beauty, and to expose the false *déesse* whenever any attempt has been made to set her off in attractive colours. A single glance at the table of contents, however, will convince the reader that delineation of character and the exhibition of manners have not been my only object. It appeared to me, that it might be advantageous to connect occasional criticisms on art and literature with some researches calculated to win a smile of approbation even from those of a purely scholastic or scientific turn of mind. The meteors that constantly danced before me during my travels have naturally led me on both rapidly and irregularly. Still, I am not without hope that these very digressions from the beaten course of narrative, and the erratic nature of the work altogether, may prove its chief recommendation and most lasting attraction. That these volumes might be conducive, not only to the amusement, but to the instruction of my readers, has been my great ambition; that I have not succeeded to the full extent of my wishes to keep myself out of sight, is to me a matter of extreme regret. The novelty of the plan of my work would have rendered any other course impracticable.

It is hardly necessary to remark, that I *alone* am responsible for every opinion or sentiment that I may have thought proper to express in the course of my strictures on the social condition of different sections of country. In one or two instances my publishers have endeavoured to persuade me to adopt certain modifications suggested by themselves, but, with all due deference to their judgment and experience, I have deemed it expedient to retain the original spirit of my remarks. If the evils I complain of in my parallel between the social system of the South and that of the North really exist, no term of denunciation can be too bitter, no shaft of ridicule too keenly pointed, for their exposure; if, on the contrary, circumstances, or obliquity of observation, have betrayed me into mistakes, it would be a great stretch of human perversity to hold the publisher accountable for an author's critical transgressions. If I have written without fear, I have also written with candour. No private grievance nor acerbity of feeling could ever have induced me to make statements which I did not believe to be strictly correct. If I know myself well, I think I have an eye and a heart for goodness and beauty wherever I can find them. Upon this principle, it will frequently be found, that where I have spoken disparagingly of men known to be my personal friends, I have not hesitated to exalt and bepraise individuals whom I knew to be my bitterest enemies. The appearance of talent and of virtue has invariably been greeted by me with enthusiastic recognition.

Those who regard the career of an actor as incompatible with serious contemplation—who deny even to the ablest expounders of the dramatist's text everything that is elevated in feeling or ennobling in pursuit, will no doubt think it strange that a man engaged in a theatrical tour should have passed his leisure hours in studies and investigations which are generally supposed to be foreign to his calling, and useless in his peculiar sphere of action. I shall not attempt to combat prejudices so ridiculously formed. Of the usefulness of the dramatic profession I have spoken elsewhere. The rambling dissertations which occur throughout these volumes on subjects so remote from a tourist's usual range of observation, are intended as a faithful transcript of the occupations of a man to whom society is nothing—the world of thought and the world of books everything. With the exception of one or two trifles which have before appeared in print, the casual remark, as well as the laboured criticism, are set down in the exact order in which they were conceived. If I have been so fortunate as to effect a breach in the stronghold of prejudice, I shall consider myself not altogether unrewarded for my pains. If I have succeeded in my well-intentioned task of inducing more liberal opinions and enlightened views, my labour will not have been in vain.

New-York, June 20th, 1842.



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