

## PREFACE.

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THE Author of this Work is a native of the Austrian Empire ; who, after an absence of five years, has re-visited his country, and found its *status quo* as exhibited in the following pages.

In presenting his work to the English public, he may be allowed to state, that no person can have a more sincere respect for the just rights of monarchs, as long as they are exercised within proper bounds. But if a limited monarchy, where the three powers, legislative, judicial, and executive, are properly separated and exercised, be the most conducive to social happiness, the despotism of Austria, and those kingdoms and principalities

influenced by it, and by the Holy Alliance, is of a nature the more shocking, inasmuch as the intellectual progress of these countries indisputably entitles them to the blessings of a liberal and rational government. Never, perhaps, has there been exhibited an example of so complete and refined a despotism in any civilized country as in Austria.

Whether this system will bear the fruits which are expected, we doubt very much. As the Crusades of yore, to speak with Schiller,\* which were originally intended to weaken still more the power of the princes, and to extend that of the Pope in Asia, effected just the contrary, and undermined his temporal dominion; so these Crusades against human liberty and understanding will, doubtless, have the same results, and undermine, what they are intended to strengthen—the foundation of Despotism !

\* See Prosaic Works of Schiller.