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# ST. PETERSBURGH.

A JOURNAL OF  
TRAVELS TO AND FROM THAT CAPITAL;  
THROUGH FLANDERS,  
THE RHENISH PROVINCES, PRUSSIA, RUSSIA,  
POLAND, SILESIA, SAXONY,  
THE FEDERATED STATES OF GERMANY, AND FRANCE.

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TO  
HIS MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY  
KING GEORGE IV.  
UNDER WHOSE PATERNAL AUSPICES AND MILD SWAY  
GREAT BRITAIN  
HAS ATTAINED, AS WELL IN WAR, AS IN PEACE,  
A DEGREE OF GLORY  
UNPARALLELED IN FORMER TIMES;  
THESE VOLUMES,  
INTENDED TO DESCRIBE THE CAPITAL  
OF A  
POWERFUL AND ALLIED MONARCH,  
ARE,  
WITH HIS MAJESTY'S VERY GRACIOUS PERMISSION,  
MOST HUMBLY AND RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED  
AND DEDICATED BY  
THE AUTHOR.

# ILLUSTRATIONS.

## VOL. I.

	Page
1 Statue of Peter the Great . . . . . Frontispiece,	
2 Map of the Post-Route . . . . .	xxii
3 Plan of Brussels . . . . .	42
4 View of the Park, and of the Palace of the States-General at Brussels . . . . .	52
5 Timber Raft floating down the Rhine . . . . .	116
6 Castle of Rheinstein, and view of the Road along the Left Bank of the Rhine . . . . .	134
7 The Castle of Johannisberg on the Rhine, belonging to His High- ness the Prince Metternich . . . . .	142
8 Plan of Frankfort . . . . .	150
9 Plan of Weimar . . . . .	205
10 Plan of Leipsig . . . . .	233
11 The New Royal Palace at Potsdam . . . . .	252
12 Plan of Berlin . . . . .	257
13 The Unter den Linden Promenade . . . . .	259
14 Triumphal Arch, erected near the Riga Gate at St. Petersburg, to commemorate the return of the Russian Guards from Paris	396
15 The English Quay at St. Petersburg . . . . .	425
16 The Imperial, or Winter Palace, at St. Petersburg, seen through the Tropheal Arch of the Etat Major . . . . .	511
17 Plan of the Petit et Grand Hermitage, with the Theatre . . . . .	520
18 Theatre of the Hermitage on the Great Quay . . . . .	532
19 Plan of St. Petersburg . . . . .	557

## VIGNETTES.

20 Plan of the Penitentiary, or Central House of Correction at Ghent	28
21 Church of St. Bavon . . . . .	33
22 The Belfry . . . . .	33
23 Front of the Palace of the New University at Ghent . . . . .	34
24 The King's Palace at Brussels . . . . .	50
25 The Prince of Orange's New Palace at Brussels . . . . .	50
26 The Hôtel de Ville at Brussels . . . . .	56
27 The Church of St. Michael and St. Gudule, at Brussels . . . . .	58
28 The Tower of Jansenius at Louvain . . . . .	68
29 The Echo of Lurley, on the Rhine . . . . .	133
30 Ducal Palace at Bieberich, on the Rhine . . . . .	143
31 The Library, and Upper Gate on the Mein, at Frankfort . . . . .	154
32 The Römerberger at Frankfort . . . . .	155
33 Schiller's House at Weimar . . . . .	217
34 The Markt Platz at Leipsig . . . . .	234
35 The Royal Château at Potsdam . . . . .	255

## ILLUSTRATIONS.

	Page
36 The Brandenburg Gate, at Berlin . . . . .	262
37 The French Church at Berlin . . . . .	264
38 The Royal Château, and Langenbrücke at Berlin . . . . .	269
39 The Arsenal at Berlin . . . . .	270
40 The New Theatre at Berlin . . . . .	284
41 The University of Berlin . . . . .	290
42 A Droshky . . . . .	456
43 A Sledge . . . . .	457
44 Cottage of Peter the Great, and Summer Palace at St. Petersburg	555

## VOL. II.

45 The New Palace of His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Michael at St. Petersburg . . . . . Frontispiece.	
46 The Admiralty and Boulevards . . . . .	55
47 Castle of St. Michael . . . . .	79
48 The Imperial Academy of Sciences and Observatory . . . . .	105
49 View of the Imperial Academy of Fine Arts, on the Quay of the Neva . . . . .	138
50 Ground Plan of the Imperial Academy of Fine Arts . . . . .	139
51 Church of Our Lady of Kazan . . . . .	182
52 Ground Plan of the same . . . . .	184
53 The Bridge Isaac and New Church . . . . .	195
54 The New Exchange and one of the Rostral Columns . . . . .	297
55 Villa of Yelaguine . . . . .	506
56 Plan of the City of Warsaw . . . . .	526
57 Palace of the Minister of Finance, at Warsaw . . . . .	542
58 Plan of the City of Dresden . . . . .	576
59 Dresden from the Bør Bastion in Neustadt . . . . .	578
60 The Royal Japanese Palace and Garden at Dresden . . . . .	594
61 Dresden, as seen from Räcknitz, the position occupied by the Allied Armies in 1813, with Moreau's Monument . . . . .	627
62 The Fortress of Königstein, on the Elbe . . . . .	632
63 The Lunatic Asylum at Sonnenstein, on the Elbe . . . . .	633

## VIGNETTES.

64 The Swaika . . . . .	387
65 Kulatchnoi Boy (Fist Fight) . . . . .	389
66 A Milk Woman . . . . .	407
67 A Sbitenstchick . . . . .	412
68 Government Palace at Warsaw . . . . .	541
69 The Picture Gallery at Dresden . . . . .	599
70 Plan of the same . . . . .	601
71 Goethe's House at Weimar . . . . .	653

# PREFACE

## TO THE SECOND EDITION.

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IF the disposal of a large Edition in the brief space of eight months, be a just criterion of the indulgent approbation with which a voluminous work has been received by the public; the Author of "St. Petersburg" has reason to be satisfied with his success. To render that work still more worthy of the patronage it has obtained, the Author has, with great diligence, revised and corrected the present Edition, and added to it such information as he has been able to collect during the short time that has elapsed since its first publication. The additions, he trusts, will be found important; and although they are considerable, he has been able to accomplish their insertion into the volumes without increasing the size of the latter, by compressing more matter into each page, and by omitting questions and passages, either not altogether relevant to the main object of the work, or simply referable to the Author's own private affairs. Of the latter description is the *exposé* of a certain transaction with the University of London, which the Author deemed it incumbent upon him to detail at full length to his readers, as in that transaction great

injustice had been done to him, of a public nature, by one of the managers of that Institution. The occasion for that *exposé* having, since, become matter of very subordinate consideration, the Author has dismissed the question altogether from the present Edition.

The avowal contained in the former Edition, of the principal motives which led, first, to the journey to St. Petersburg, and next, to its publication, has also been omitted on the present occasion. The writer who noticed the Author's work in the Quarterly Review, having disapproved of such an avowal, and condescended to make it the subject of his *biting* ridicule, there remained no other alternative to the Author, than to suppress it. He now feels, with that learned critic, that the public could not, "either now or ever, care one straw" what became of the Author, let him stay or begone, write his travels or hold his peace; and that it was impertinent in him to have thought otherwise. But in his defence, the Author may observe on this point, that he was misled by the apparent interest with which he fancied that the public read the repeated announcements of the "goings and comings" of other individuals; such, for instance, as those of the Junior Secretary of the Admiralty, himself a writer of travels, and perhaps a critic. The Author reasoned thus: if it be deemed necessary to acquaint the public that a Junior Secretary, whose absence none can miss, (for there are plenty of other subalterns to supply his place,) has left his post, whenever that personage proceeds on a visit to some dock-yard: how much more necessary must it be for a physician to three public Institutions of considerable magnitude, and who is not without private practice, to in-



form those by whom he gets his bread, of the motives which led him abruptly to absent himself from his numerous duties? In thus reasoning, however, the Quarterly Critic has made it manifest, that the Author of "St. Petersburg" had assumed too much importance to himself, and had, in fact, been guilty of vanity; a fault to which the same critic has been pleased also to ascribe the "long list of titles" appended to the Author's name, in the title-page of his work. That critic objects to these "titles manifold." As well might he object to the spelling of *wheelbarrow* with two *r*'s, when one would suffice. The fact is, that custom has sanctioned the practice in both cases; and custom is as good an authority as the *dictum* of a Quarterly Reviewer. The best part of the joke, however, is, that one of the most distinguished writers in the periodical in question, and a *marked* poet, has set and followed the example, of adding "a long tail of honours to a short title-page." The thing itself is too paltry to merit even so much notice as that which is here bestowed upon it; but it might be asked, whether, if the tacking of F.R.S. to an author's name, when in the enjoyment of that distinction, be orthodox practice (and the compiler of the history of Voyages into the Arctic Regions, among many other writers, has proved it by his own example); the adding of any other academical distinction, of *equal* importance, be not *equally* proper? In truth, can an author, who has had the good fortune to arrive at a plurality of such distinctions, insert any of them and omit the remainder, without offence to those from whom he has received those honours? Be this as it may, the Quarterly Critic will be glad, at all events, to learn that his apprehensions, lest the objectionable "string of initials"

should be looked upon as "chaff that cannot catch old birds," instead of being "a passport for the Author's volumes to the shelves of the learned," have proved groundless; for at the time of the Critic's "unprejudiced estimation" of the "two *fat* volumes" appearing in the redoubtable Quarterly, those volumes had already found their place on the shelves in question, in pretty good numbers; and soon after, the entire Edition attained an equal honour. This result, the Author is inclined to ascribe, in a great measure, to the flattering manner in which upwards of twenty Periodical Publications, in the short space of the two months which followed the appearance of "St. Petersburg," reported to the public their favourable opinion of that work: and he takes this opportunity of thanking them for their impartiality.

Much as the Author must regret any farther intrusion on the attention of his readers in a mere Preface, there is one point on which he must beg to be allowed to be heard, for the purpose of giving the most unqualified contradiction to certain assertions of the Quarterly Reviewer, which are meant to affect the originality of "St. Petersburg" and the judgment of its Author. Those assertions are, that the Author has borrowed largely and injudiciously from Captain Jones, whose travels were published about two years ago by Mr. Murray, but have never been honoured with a notice in the Quarterly Review, nor have as yet, been reprinted. The words of the Quarterly Critic are these: "We do not hesitate to say that his (Dr. Granville's) Picture of St. Petersburg, contains the most copious and detailed description of the gigantic edifices of this extraordinary city, which has