

TRAVELS

INTO

POLAND, RUSSIA, SWEDEN,

AND

DENMARK.

ILLUSTRATED WITH CHARTS AND ENGRAVINGS.

By WILLIAM COXE,

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OF SARUM.

AND DOMESTIC CHAPLAIN TO THE LORD BISHOP
OF SALISBURY.

IN FIVE VOLUMES.—VOL. I.

THE FOURTH EDITION.

L O N D O N :

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MDCCXCII.

TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE
Lord HERBERT.

MY LORD,

AS the advantages which I enjoyed from accompanying your Lordship upon your travels enabled me to collect the materials for the following work, it cannot be inscribed to any other person with so much propriety as to your Lordship. You, I flatter myself, will recollect with pleasure the result of those inquiries to which you were particularly attentive; and I am happy in this public opportunity

nity of expressing the grateful sense
which I entertain of being honoured
with your Lordship's friendship ;
and of declaring the sincere regard
and attachment with which I am,

MY LORD,

YOUR LORDSHIP'S

MOST FAITHFUL

AND OBEDIENT SERVANT,

WILLIAM COXE.

King's College, Cambridge,
April 2, 1784.

P R E F A C E

TO THE FIRST EDITION.

THE following pages contain the result of that intelligence which I collected, and those observations which occurred, during my travels through the Northern kingdoms of Europe; and it is necessary to apprise the reader upon what foundation the principal facts are supported.

In regard to Poland, I was honoured with information from persons of the highest rank and authority; and fortunately obtained possession of some original letters written from Warsaw, before and during the Partition, which have enabled me to throw a considerable light over that interesting period. I presume, therefore, that the account of Poland comprehends many particulars, which have not been hitherto presented to the public.

With respect to Russia, as the Empress herself deigned to answer some queries relative to the state of the public prisons * ; this gracious condescension in so great sovereign could not but facilitate my further inquiries.

To this I must add, that the late celebrated historian †, Mr. Muller, favoured me with various communications on some of the most important and intricate parts of the Russian annals ; and pointed out to me the most approved writers on this empire.

The nature of the Swedish government rendered the sources of information easy of access ; and, since my return to England, several Swedish gentlemen, well versed in the constitution of their country, have supplied much additional intelligence.

As the materials which I acquired in Denmark were less extensive than those collected in the other parts, the account

* See Vol. III. p. 132.

† Mr. Muller died in the latter end of 1783. The Empress, who, in consideration of his great merit, had honoured him with the order of St. Vladimir, has, in respect to his memory, ennobled his family.

of that kingdom is confined to those circumstances which I was able to ascertain ; it having been my invariable resolution never to adopt uncertain accounts, but to adhere solely to those facts which appeared to me to be derived from the most unquestionable authorities.

In the historical relations, I have had recourse to many English and foreign authors, and particularly to several German writers of unimpeached veracity, who were resident for a considerable time in some of the Northern kingdoms, and from whom I have drawn many anecdotes not known to the English reader.

Throughout this work, I have scrupulously cited the authors whom I have consulted ; and have subjoined a list of the principal books employed on this occasion, with an explanation of the references by which they are distinguished.

I cannot close this preface without expressing my obligations to Mr. Wraxall, Mr. Pennant, and Dr. Pulteney, for their respective assistance, acknowledged in the

course of the work. Colonel Floyd also claims my sincerest thanks for communicating his accurate Journal of our Tour; to whose observations and descriptions, besides the extracts in the following pages, I gratefully confess myself indebted for many interesting particulars.

ADVERTISEMENT

TO THE FOURTH EDITION.

THE Author published the first edition of this work in 1784; and the favourable manner in which the public received it, induced him to give an additional volume, including a continuation of those observations, which a subsequent journey into the northern kingdoms of Europe, in 1784 and 1785, enabled him to make; more particularly an account of those countries which he did not visit in his former tour; namely, Jutland, Norway, Livonia, Courland, and Prussia.

In the present edition those parts, which relate to the same subject, have been thrown together, and the remaining chapters of the additional volume arranged in as connected a manner as the nature of the work would admit.

P O S T S C R I P T.

IN the former editions of this work I reduced the Russian money to the English standard, and estimated the value of a rouble at 4*s.* or five to a pound sterling ; which in 1778, when I first visited Russia, was nearly its average amount. When Peter the Great reformed the coinage, he proposed making the value of a rouble equal to a rix-dollar, or about 4*s.* 6*d.* ; at which value, with a small fluctuation owing to accidental circumstances, it continued till the commencement of the Turkish war in 1770. Since that period the alteration of the coin has reduced the intrinsic value, as tried in the mint of London, to 3*s.* 2*d.* The excess of the imports above the exports, the number of remittances necessary for the payment of the troops employed against the Turks, and the great quantity of paper money in circulation, have also still farther contributed to diminish the value of the rouble in exchange with foreign countries ; and in the course of the three last

years.

years the rouble has been more than once so low as 2*s.* 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*

But as this diminution was owing to circumstances not permanent in their nature, and as the war is now terminated, it may be presumed the nominal value will, as in most cases, soon exceed the intrinsic value of the rouble: we may therefore fairly rate the average value at 3*s.* 4*d.* or fix to a pound sterling.

Bemerton, February 28, 1792.

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