

HISTORICAL SKETCHES
OF
STATESMEN

WHO FLOURISHED IN
THE TIME OF GEORGE III.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION.	
THE FRENCH REVOLUTION,	3
ROBESPIERRE,	46
DANTON,	64
CAMILLE DESMOULINS.—ST. JUST,	76
SIÉYES,	98
FOUCHÉ,	103
GENERAL REFLECTIONS,	114
NECKAR,	119
MADAME DE STAËL,	132
MIRABEAU FAMILY,	143
CARNÔT,	172
LAFAYETTE,	195
TALLEYRAND,	211
TALLIEN,	225
NEY,	234
BRISNOT.—THE GIRONDINS,	238
FRENCH BAR DURING THE REVOLUTION,	253
NAPOLÉON—WASHINGTON,	260
CARROL,	275

	PAGE
JEFFERSON,	280
FRANKLIN,	291
AMERICAN DEMOCRACY,	295
FREDERIC II.,	309
GUSTAVUS III.,	332
THE EMPEROR JOSEPH,	344
THE EMPRESS CATHERINE,	356
ELIZABETH'S CONDUCT TO MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS,	368
DIALOGUE ON THE MERITS OF REPUBLICAN AND MONAR-	
CHICAL GOVERNMENT,	375
INDEX,	439

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STATESMEN
OF
THE TIME OF GEORGE III.

INTRODUCTION.

THE third series of this work is delivered to the public under a grateful sense of the favour with which the two former were received.* It has been my desire to make some small return for such kindness, by redoubling my care to prevent any bias of a party or a personal kind from influencing the opinions pronounced, whether upon men or upon measures. Conscious as every one must feel, how naturally our affections are engaged in behalf of those whose opinions agree with our own, and how apt the adversaries of those opinions are to be hardly dealt with in the judgments we form of them, I have most scrupulously made it my endeavour to treat all with whose history I have dealt, as if I was ignorant of the principles which professedly guided their conduct, until I came to describe how far it was governed by those principles.

It has further been the constant object of these pages to record whatever tended to promote the great and united causes of public virtue, free institutions, and universal peace; holding up their friends to the veneration of mankind, their enemies to scorn and aversion; while the glare that success gives to bad actions, and the shade into which good ones are thrown by failure, have, as far as possible, been shown to be temporary only; and mankind have been con-

* This refers to the first edition.