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Frances Milton Trollope
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Frances Trollope presents a first-hand account of her travel experiences in the United States during 1827-1831 in her two-volume book *Domestic Manners of the Americans*. First published in 1832, it records her views on many aspects of American daily life, especially targeting the supposed lack of manners among Americans. On reaching America, Mrs. Trollope encountered a country that was completely different from what she had expected. She expresses her disgust at the copious handshaking, spitting-habits, tobacco chewing, expressions of self-righteousness, and hypocrisy of the Americans and vents her outrage at the existence of the slave trade in a country that boasted of equality. Her criticisms of American culture are interspersed with descriptions of elections, cathedrals, markets, public balls, literature, and religion. Volume 1 covers her travels through New Orleans, Memphis, Baltimore and Washington, and offers an engaging account of a nineteenth-century Englishwoman's impressions of America.

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VOLUME 1

FRANCES MILTON TROLLOPE



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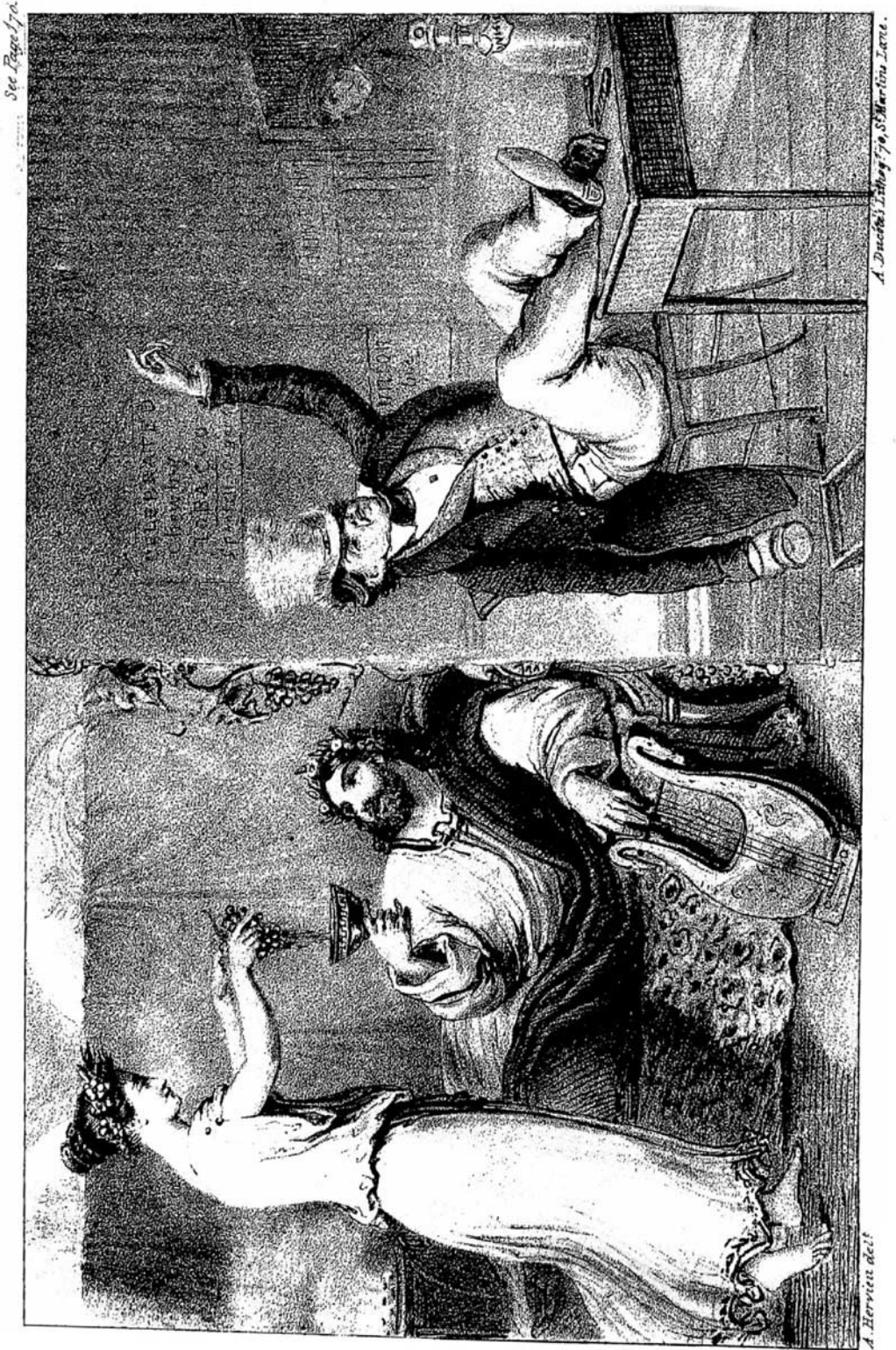
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DOMESTIC MANNERS
OF
THE AMERICANS.

BY MRS. TROLLOPE.

“ On me dit que pourvu que je ne parle ni de l'autorité, ni du culte, ni de la politique, ni de la morale, ni des gens en place, ni de l'opéra, ni des autres spectacles, ni de personne qui tienne à quelque chose, je puis tout imprimer librement.”—MARIAGE DE FIGARO.

—————
VOLUME I.
—————

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR WHITTAKER, TREACHER, & CO.
AVE-MARIA-LANE.

—————
1832.

P R E F A C E.

IN offering to the public these volumes on America, their author would rather be considered as endeavouring to excite fresh attention on a very important subject, than as pretending to furnish complete information upon it.

Although much has already been written on the great experiment, as it has been called, now making in government, on the other side of the Atlantic, there appears to be still room for many interesting details on the influence which the political system of the country has produced on the principles, tastes, and manners, of its domestic life.

The author of the following pages has endeavoured, in some degree, to supply this deficiency, by carefully recording the observations she had an opportunity of making during a residence of three years and six months in different parts of the United States.

She leaves to abler pens the more ambitious task of commenting on the democratic form of the American government; while, by describing, faithfully, the daily aspect of ordinary life, she has endeavoured to shew how greatly the advantage is on the side of those who are governed by the few, instead of the many. The chief object she has had in view is to encourage her countrymen to hold fast by a constitution that ensures all the blessings which flow from established habits and solid principles. If they forego these, they will incur the fearful risk of

PREFACE.

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breaking up their repose by introducing the jarring tumult and universal degradation which invariably follow the wild scheme of placing all the power of the state in the hands of the populace.

The United States of America contain a considerable variety of interesting objects in most branches of natural science, besides much that is new, a good deal that is beautiful, and some things that are wonderful. Nevertheless, as it is the moral and religious condition of the people which, beyond every thing else, demands the attention of the philosophical enquirer, the author would consider her work as completely successful, could she but awaken a more general interest on this subject.

HARROW,
March, 1832.

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