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978-1-108-01928-6 - Retrospect of Western Travel, Volume 1

Harriet Martineau

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### Retrospect of Western Travel

Harriet Martineau (1802–76) was a British writer and scholar who can be described as one of the first British sociologists. She was one of the first social theorists to examine all aspects of a society, including social class, religion, national character and the status of women. After the death of her fiancé, Martineau published articles on economics and taxation before embarking on a two-year tour of the United States in 1834. She immersed herself in American society, visiting both Houses of Congress along with prisons, hospitals and literary and scientific institutions. These volumes contain a description of her travels through America. Martineau's sharp powers of observation provide not only a vivid description of America but also insights into the construction of nineteenth-century American society. Volume 1 contains her travels from New York to Washington D.C. For more information on this author, see [http://orlando.cambridge.org/public/svPeople?person\\_id=martha](http://orlando.cambridge.org/public/svPeople?person_id=martha)

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VOLUME 1

HARRIET MARTINEAU



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RETROSPECT  
OF  
WESTERN TRAVEL

BY  
HARRIET MARTINEAU,  
AUTHOR OF "SOCIETY IN AMERICA," "ILLUSTRATIONS  
OF POLITICAL ECONOMY," ETC.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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## P R E F A C E.

WHEN I finished my late work on *Society in America*, I had not the most remote idea of writing any thing more on the subject of the New World. I have since been strongly solicited to communicate more of my personal narrative, and of the lighter characteristics of men, and incidents of travel, than it suited my purpose to give in the other work. It has also been represented to me that, as my published book concerns the Americans at least as much as the English, there is room for another which shall supply to the English what the Americans do not want,—a picture of the aspect of the country, and of its men and manners. There seems no reason why such a picture should not be appended to an inquiry into the theory and practice of their

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PREFACE.

society: especially as I believe that I have little to tell which will not strengthen the feelings of respect and kindness with which the people of Great Britain are more and more learning to regard the inhabitants of the Western Republic. I have therefore willingly acceded to the desire of such of my readers as have requested to be presented with my Retrospect of Western Travel.

H. M.

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