

PREFACE.

THE present volume is intended to furnish the traveller with a Guide-book for the continental portion of the kingdom of the Two Sicilies, including the city of Naples and its suburbs, Pompeii, Herculaneum, Vesuvius, the Islands of the Bay of Naples, and that portion of the Papal States which lies between the immediate Contorni of Rome and the Neapolitan frontier.

It is the result of three visits to Naples, during which no pains were spared in collecting materials, not merely for a description of localities, but also for the illustration of those classical and mediæval antiquities of Southern Italy which have hitherto received less attention than they deserve. To accomplish this object a large amount of laborious research has been necessary, involving constant reference to original authorities, the details of which, if our limits had permitted us to cite them, would have formed no mean contribution to Italian bibliography. A work embracing such a variety of subjects, and written necessarily in the intervals of official business, could not under any circumstances be produced in haste; but the desire to make it complete has retarded its appearance beyond the time originally assigned for its publication. It is hoped, however, that this delay has enabled us to throw new light on many obscure or neglected portions of the subject, and thus to render the Work more useful to the traveller who may visit the country with the feelings of a scholar.