Édition de Luxe

AMERICAN NOTES
FOR
GENERAL CIRCULATION
AND HUNTED DOWN

BY
CHARLES DICKENS

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY MARCUS STONE

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PREFACE.

My readers have opportunities of judging for themselves whether the influences and tendencies which I distrusted in America had any existence but in my imagination. They can examine for themselves whether there has been anything in the public career of that country since, at home or abroad, which suggests that those influences and tendencies really did exist. As they find the fact, they will judge me. If they discern any evidences of wrong-going, in any direction that I have indicated, they will acknowledge that I had reason in what I wrote. If they discern no such thing, they will consider me altogether mistaken—but not wilfully.

Prejudiced I am not, and never have been, otherwise than in favor of the United States. I have many friends in America, I feel a grateful interest in the country, I hope and believe it will successfully work out a problem of the highest importance to the whole human race. To represent me as viewing AMERICA with ill-nature, coldness, or animosity, is merely to do a very foolish thing, which is always a very easy one.

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