

DEDICATION
TO
THE QUEEN.

MADAM,

It is with mingled feelings of anxiety and gratitude that I avail myself of Your Majesty's gracious permission to inscribe to you the following Narrative. It pretends to no other merit than that of truth; and its most ambitious object will be obtained, if it be found to afford any useful or interesting information, and thus to beguile a leisure hour stolen from Your Majesty's more grave and weighty occupations.

It has been customary to clothe a dedication in the language of panegyric: I will not presume to follow the tempting precedent. Your Majesty's qualities will be attested by an Empire, and be recorded by History. Nevertheless, I trust I may