

THE PREFACE.

tion of a needful Preliminary Study, viz. That of GEOGRAPHY, which with some small taste of Chronology, may be deservedly term'd, The Eyes and Feet of History, and ought to be acquir'd by our Historian, either in his younger Days, or (at least) in the first place. On which account, I've drawn up the following Treatise, adapting it Chiefly to the younger Sort of our Nobility and Gentry; by the help of which, they may quickly acquire such an Idea of all remarkable Countries, as to Fit 'em sufficiently for turning over any Modern History whatsoever. This one step in Education of Youth were preferable [methinks] to a Seven Years Drudgery in the dry Study of bare Words; and a Second Apprenticeship that's usually spent in a Phantastick improvement of the Mind, with many useless Speculations. And I may be bold to say, that to exercise the Thoughts in such a manner as this, (or to be but tolerably accomplish'd in these diverting Studies, would vastly transcend most of those other Accomplishments and Diversions, so much in Vogue among our Gentry at present. And 'tis highly probable, that such a Method as this, might more effectually check the Growth of Vice among 'em, than the most elaborate Moral Discourse that can be fram'd; [the very Title of such Composures being enough many times to fright them from the Perusal] whereas a moderate Application of Mind to the aforesaid Studies, would insensibly wean the Thoughts of some, from the reigning Impieties of the Age; and in others, it might ev'n happily prevent an early acquaintance with Vice in general. And