

## PREFACE

TO THE SECOND EDITION.

*Philadelphia, January 4, 1815.*

THE unequivocal and decided approbation with which the former edition of this work has been favoured, by respectable men of both the hostile parties that divide this country, I regard as among the most grateful circumstances of my life. Its numerous defects—its want of method—and the great imperfection of its style and manner—were, I presume, regarded as atoned for by its obvious and undeniable object—the object of contributing my feeble efforts towards allaying the effervescence, the turbulence, the animosity that pervade the community, and are pregnant with such alarming consequences.

Of the time that has elapsed since its first appearance, I have availed myself, to amplify—to methodise—and to improve it. And although I am very far indeed from presuming it to be perfect, yet I hope it will be found more entitled to patronage than it was in its original dishabille.

It embraces a very convulsed period of our history; and has been written under no common disadvantages. I have laboured under a great deficiency of various materials and documents, which no exertions have enabled me to procure—and it has been begun, carried on, and completed in moments constantly subject to those interruptions inevitable in the pressure of business. To suppose, then, it were perfect, would argue a degree of insanity which the fondest and

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