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ibid.

A summary, historical and political, of
the first planting, progressive improve-
ments, and present state of the British
settlements in NORTH-AMERICA; with
some transient accounts of the border-
ing French and Spanish settlements.

A S distance of place does equally or rather more
admit of latitude, for imperfect, erroneous,
and romantick accounts of affairs than di-
stance of time; the author, after thirty
years residence in these colonies, and cor-
respondence with some inquisitive gentlemen of the se-
veral governments, does generously offer to the pub-
lick, the following collection, done with some ex-
pence of time borrowed from the business of his profes-
sion, and hours of relaxation; without any mercenary,
sordid, scribbling view of profit, or ostentation of more
knowledge in these things than some of his neighbours,
but to contribute towards a solid certain foundation for
the histories of these countries in times to come. The
people in Europe (the publick boards not excepted)
have a very indistinct notion of these settlements, and
the American settlers are too indolent, to acquaint them-
selves with the state of their neighbouring colonies.

Descriptions and bare relations, although accurate and
instructive, to many readers are insipid and tedious;
therefore a little seasoning is sometimes used; where a
mica salis occurs, may it not be disagreeable; it is not
designed with any malicious invidious view. For the
same reason, a small digression, but not impertinent to
the subject, is now and then made use of; as also some
short illustrations.