

TO  
THE KING'S MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY

SIRE,

The Author of this collection of Works of Fiction would not have presumed to solicit for them Your Majesty's August Patronage, were it not that the perusal has been supposed, in some instances, to have succeeded in amusing hours of relaxation, or relieving those of languor, pain, or anxiety; and therefore must have so far aided the warmest wish of your Majesty's heart, by contributing, in however small a degree, to the happiness of your people.

They are therefore humbly dedicated to your Majesty, agreeably to your gracious permission, by

Your Majesty's

Dutiful Subject,

WALTER SCOTT.

ABBOTSFORD,

1st January 1829.