

## PREFACE.

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PERHAPS the title of this book sufficiently explains its purport. Of the history of the British possessions—a theme large enough for several volumes—it does not pretend to give a complete account, or even a comprehensive epitome. If it succeed in showing what were the virtues and the vices, the designs and the accidents, which led to the formation and development of our Colonial Empire, what are its present value and prospective importance, and how these may be increased by proper cultivation of the emigration-fields that are open to our over-crowded country, its object will be attained.

H. R. F. B.

LONDON, *October 1869.*