

The P R E F A C E.

This, in short, is the Summ and Method of the following Geographical Treatise, which (as I said) is principally design'd for the use and benefit of the younger Sort of our Nobility and Gentry. And did such Persons apply their Minds, in their younger Years, to this most useful and diverting Science; 'tis more than probable, that they might thereby avoid those many and gross Immoralities which abound among us. For if we strictly enquire into the Source of these foul and loathsome Streams, (especially in those whom Fortune hath rais'd above the common level,) we may readily find, that they mainly flow from that detestable Habit of Idleness, in which the generality of such Persons are bred up, during their youthful Days, and to which they wholly give up themselves, when arriv'd to riper Years. By which means they're expos'd to a thousand Temptations, and continually lie open to the grand Adversary of Souls. For the remedying of this great Evil, 'tis highly to be wisht, that such Persons would daily imploy a few of their many spare Hours (that now lie heavy upon their Hands) in some proper diverting Study, which carries along with it both Profit and Pleasure, as its constant Attendants. Now, such a Study is undoubtedly that of History, a Study that's particularly proper for a Gentleman, and adorns him with the best Accomplishments; a Study that begets Experience without Gray Hairs, and makes a Man wise at the Toil and Charge of others. If it be objected, that many have made attempts of the same, and that without Success. Most certain it is, I own, and the reason is ready at hand, namely, their Omis-