

P R E F A C E.

THE science of Geography being in a constant state of improvement, either from new discoveries on the globe, or from the new points of view in which objects already known may be considered, a work of this nature must require frequent revision. In proportion as the spirit of enterprise and perseverance of research continue to exhibit new discoveries, it is necessary to apply with assiduity to the various sources of information, and to enrich this work by an interesting selection of such objects as may claim attention, not merely from their novelty, but from their importance in a delineation of the world and the history of the human race.

In the eighth edition, published in 1794, very considerable additions and improvements were made. The division of France into departments, instead of its ancient provinces; the transferment of the provinces of Poland to the dominion of Russia, Austria, and Prussia; the new division of the vast empire of Russia into governments; the new acquisitions in the geography of the regions of Hindoostan; the description of many cities, towns, lakes, and rivers, in North America; with numerous important additions in other foreign parts, and also in Great Britain, were then introduced, for the first time, into any work of this kind. The articles that were not in the preceding edition amounted to considerably above a thousand; and a great number of the others were either newly written or greatly improved.

Since that time it has been the constant practice of the editor to enrich the subsequent editions by insertions from every respectable publication, whence new geographical