

PREFACE

THE accompanying volume contains a series of tracts each complete in itself, and containing an amount of valuable and useful information never before presented to the public within the compass of so small a work. Each tract contains a detailed and concise account of the principal branches of scientific discoveries, arts, manufactures, &c., with the appliances of skill and labour attached to each, which have rendered them so useful to modern society, both at home and abroad; they also embrace a general and elaborate view of the productions which bountiful nature has been so lavishing upon us year after year, until, by the continual and constantly increasing improvements and, inventions what a few years ago were thought to be nothing less than the chimerical fancies of a few interested parties, have now become, by the aid of the above, means essential, and in some measure absolutely necessary, for our every day existence, besides forming an important branch of commerce in the supplying other countries not so highly favoured as ourselves, with every variety of manufactured articles, which we import from them in the form of raw cotton, wool, silk, &c., &c. The chief object of the compiler has been to place within the reach of a large majority of the public a collection of subjects which has hitherto only been attainable in the shape of large and expensive