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## PREFACE.

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IT may, perhaps, appear extraordinary to some of my Readers, how I could collect so many materials in so short a time. To this I answer, that, in contemplation of this Journey, I furnished myself with much preparatory knowledge respecting the tract through which I intended to pass—both by conversing with American gentlemen, and reading Morse's Geography, Brissot, Jefferson, Mather, and other authors.

At the same time, I entered in a small paper book, queries and memorandums of such things as I intended to enquire after; and, by the knowledge of shorthand, I was enabled to make minutes