

## EDITOR'S PREFACE.

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IN the intervals of composition, especially during the last years of his life, Mr. Prescott devoted much time to the revision of his published works. The changes he made included, besides many verbal amendments and some alterations of greater moment, numerous additions, principally to the notes, from the fresh material accumulated in the progress of his researches. Successive English editions published during his lifetime profited to some extent by this labor; but his purpose to incorporate the whole of its results in a new American edition was unhappily frustrated by his death. He had intimated a desire that the task should, in this event, be undertaken by the writer, who had shared in the previous labor and was cognizant of the details, and to whom it has accordingly been intrusted by the publishers, the present proprietors of the copyrights. It has consisted mainly in collating the editions, errors having crept into the later