

present System of Affairs ; yet the Use of a comparative History, is, I believe, evident.

THE grand End of this Branch of Knowledge, is, that we may assist ourselves in a Comparison ; either by avoiding the Errors, or by taking Advantage of the good Policy of former Times. In this View, there is not only Pleasure but Profit, arising from an historical Narration.

MY Intention, therefore, was to chuse a History adapted to my Purpose ; and after searching the different Periods, I found none so well calculated to answer my Design, as that of the *Athenians* in their War with the *Macedonians*.

LET us endeavour to set their Mistakes as a Mark by which we may steer our Conduct, and avoid splitting on their Example. This however, cannot be effectually compleated, without stating the Views of the Antagonists, and observing how the Means were proportioned to the Ends designed by the separate Parties.

*Athens* was a Republic which all the Efforts of a popular Faction could not for many Ages enslave ; but their Government was much altered from the Time when their Ancestors had gained the Victories of *Marathon*