

and equally distinguished for his humanity, generosity, great abilities, and honourable stations, supplied me with some useful papers ; and has left behind him a collection, that will be very serviceable to any gentleman who may hereafter incline to continue this narrative, through the administrations of Mr. Cosby, and Lieutenant-Governour Clarke. The draught of this work was unfinished, at the time of Mr. Alexander's decease ;* and therefore, as it never passed under his examination, many important additions are lost, which his long and intimate acquaintance with the affairs of this province would have enabled him to supply.

When I began to frame this digest, it was only intended for private use ; and the motives which now induce me to publish it, are the gratification of the present thirst in Great Britain after American intelligences : contributing, as far as this province is concerned, to an accurate history of the British empire† in this quarter of the world ; and the prospect of doing some small service to my country, by laying before the publick a summary account of its first rise and present state.

Influenced by these views, I am not so regardless of the judgment of others, as not to wish it may be, in,

* He died on the 2d of April, 1756.

† As the provinces are different in their constitutions, and with respect to government, independent of each other ; no general history of America can be expected, till gentlemen of leisure will draw up particular accounts of the respective colonies with which they are acquainted.