

INTRODUCTION.

ACCOUNTS of transactions, in which the Writer has borne any part, are generally drawn with so evident a design of making him "*The Heroe of the Tale,*" that they have been called in the just severity of wit, "*The Histories of Man's Importance in his own Eyes.*"

Alarmed at a prepossession so dangerous, I have thus long suppressed the following work, written mostly at the time, and finished almost as soon as the events it contains. But upon cooler reflection, conscious innocence of a self sufficiency so justly disgusting, and from all pretensions to which I was precluded by my situation, has encouraged me to lay it now before the Public.

The end proposed, at least professedly, by all publications, is *Instruction, or Entertainment*. That I have any prospect of affording either, by a recital of facts, so recent as to be universally known, may possibly be a question with many. But the answer is ready. Though the facts, here recited, are known now, how long will that knowledge continue, if they are trusted meerly to memory?—And as so much time has passed without producing any other attempt to record them, why should I not offer this of mine?—

Instead, therefore, of giving up my hopes of attaining either of these ends, I honestly own my ambition aspires to both. I hope to afford the most sublime of all entertainments to the generous mind, by placing before him past scenes