

## THE PREFACE.

---

IT must be admitted, that no period in the history of our own country can be considered as uninteresting; nor is the interest much less, which attaches to transactions relating to distant provinces, under its immediate government. Such circumstances as tend to illustrate the progress of civilization and manners in such places, merit our attention in no small degree. To enter into remote or very minute events is beyond the compass of my present design, in truth not within the bounds of a small publication: it is, however, my intention to gratify my readers with a circumstantial detail of every circumstance within the compass of my enquiry, the investigation of which can be supposed to afford