

## PREFACE.

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AFTER the appearance of Lord Selkirk's Pamphlet, entitled, "A Sketch of the British Fur Trade in North America; with Observations relative to the North-West Company of Montreal," and some other Publications which issued from the press about the same time on the same subject, the Author of the following pages had proposed to reply to them; but Sir Alexander M'Kenzie, to whose authority Lord Selkirk so often appeals, and whom he so often misrepresents, was desirous of taking up the discussion; an intention, the execution of which, circumstances alone have hitherto delayed. Upon further consideration of the subsequent transactions in which Lord Selkirk was involved, and of the unfortunate occurrences in the Interior of the North-West Country, all of which must become the subject of examination in Courts of Justice in England, it was deemed unfair by the Representatives of the North-West Company, to publish an *ex parte* statement of evidence, which might influ-