

## PREFACE.

**THE** following singular and almost incredible Narrative is given to the world by Walter Bates, Esq. High Sheriff for King's county, in the British province of New Brunswick, in North America. The office held by the Author, while it has been the occasion of his acquaintance with the circumstances which he narrates, is a guarantee for his personal respectability, and imposes upon him a more than ordinary share of responsibility for the truth and accuracy of his statements. The facts stated, are, in a majority of instances, such as could not be otherwise than matters of public notoriety, in the neighbourhood and province in which they occurred; many witnesses must be capable of bearing testimony to their truth or falsehood; and it is even found, that in the course of the Author's Narrative, the names of a variety of individuals are mentioned;—individuals, all of whom are well known, to a larger or smaller circle, in New Brunswick, and to all of whom it