

## EDITOR'S PREFACE.

IT ought not to be necessary to apologize for any attempt to enlighten the people, as to their true interests; in other countries, it would not be so. But by some singular fatality, a notion has prevailed here, and more especially among those who style themselves by way of eminence, Republicans, that the maxims which the Ancients applied to the dead, should apply to ourselves—“*Nil nisi bonum de Nobis*.” “Let us hear nothing of ourselves, but what is flattering.” Hence that excessive national vanity, that extravagant miscalculation of our resources, our power, our means of annoyance, our national spirit, which nothing but misfortune can ever correct.

If as a nation we are thus liable to err, and especially if, as our Constitutions of Government presume, our rulers may either mistake, or be corrupted, deceive or betray us, it is important that we should have the whole truth laid before us, in order that we may correct these errors, either in ourselves or in them. The grossest mistakes have been made by the people of this country, as to the real dispositions of the two great belligerent nations. We have been taught to consider France as our friend—Great-Britain as our enemy: France as favourable to the freedom of the seas; Great-Britain its foe. It would have been happy if we could have said, that our Administration has done nothing to rivet these radical mistakes. But events have partly done what reason alone could never have effected. The headstrong and successful ambition of BONAPARTE has torn away a part of the veil, and it only behoves us to examine with impartiality what is disclosed to us, and we shall be cured of that dreadful malady, our attachment to France.

With a view to aid in this object, these thoughts are committed to the press. If it be asked, why the subject of the Chesapeake and the rejection of Mr. Rose's honourable offers is again brought before the publick, and at this day?—the answer has been already anticipated. No people are so unwilling to hear the truth, as those who are inflamed with passion. Our anger and our self love were so excited when these things were recent, that the still, calm voice of reason could not be heard. But since it appears from some late events, that the People begin to consider, and to reject the hot-headed counsels and passionate appeals of some zealous partizans, it is possible that the views, which are herein exhibited, may have a salutary effect. This may be relied upon, that they are the words of truth and soberness, the fruit of much reflection, and of no ordinary share of experience in the affairs of the world.