XX INTRODUCTION TO THE FIRST EDITION.

sent times, but which, whatever defects it may contain, has proved the source of all their prosperity. The people of England are too apt to hold the character of the Americans in trifling estimation; but when it is known that their country is fast approaching to importance, that their imports and exports already amount to one-half of those of Great Britain, while their annual expenditure is not a twentieth, and their national debt not a fortieth part of ours, we cannot avoid giving them our meed of admiration. It is to be hoped that the two nations will no longer give way to blind and acrimonious prejudices against each other, but endeavour to cultivate the blessings of peace, instead of the horrors of war.

I certainly felt a lively interest in visiting the United States, with which I was but imperfectly acquainted from written accounts. My eyes and ears were open to every thing I saw or heard; and though I met with a people whose manners and customs differed but little from those of my own countrymen, yet there was a novelty