

T H E
P R E F A C E.

*T*HE affairs of America have lately engaged a great deal of the public attention. Before the present war there were but a very few who made the history of that quarter of the world any part of their study; though the matter is certainly very curious in itself, and extremely interesting to us as a trading people.

The history of a country which, though vast in extent, is the property only of four nations: and which, though peopled probably for a series of ages, is only known to the rest of the world for about two centuries, does not naturally afford matter for many volumes. Yet it is certain, that to acquire a proper knowledge of the history of the events in America, an idea of its present state, and a competent judgment of its trade, a great deal of reading has been