

P R E F A C E.

AS many publications on the *subject of the American contest* have already appeared to the world, some apology is necessary for the intrusion of any thing further: However, if *that subject* be placed in a new light, I hope it will be deemed a sufficient reason for offering this treatise to the public.

After illustrating the advantage Great Britain derived from the commerce of each Colony respectively, with the probable causes of the insurrection, and to whose charge it ought to be laid, I have endeavoured to point out the specific difference, and consequences of exercising the right of *laying on duties in general or port duties only*, and to shew that the interest of the empire requires, that our fellow-subjects in America should be *exempt from all taxation but external*, and that, in consequence of this exemption, the American Colonies be *further restrained in their navigation and fisheries than they lately were*. The regulation of the commerce of *its Colonies*, and right of *imposing external duties*, it is proved this country has, consistent with the very nature of colonization, enjoyed from the beginning: How far the exercise of those powers may render all (even the northern Colonies, who rival us in export) advantageous, is largely treated on.

The consequences to us of the independence of all, or part of our American Colonies are explained; as likewise how deeply the other European states are interested in the event.

The necessity of, and happy consequences attending an union with Ire'and; the improvement of the revenue in Scotland, and means of increasing the fisheries of the British isles, are particularly treated of: And lastly, I have endeavoured to shew, that the British possessions in Asia, might, by proper management, be rendered far superior to all we ever held in America.