

P R E F A C E.

THE author feels no occasion for apology in bringing these Reflections before his countrymen, and as little perhaps for stating anything which might recommend them to their perusal. Having in his childhood been an eye-witness to many of the events noticed in the following pages, they naturally impressed themselves on his mind with a force such as is peculiar to that period of life. Since he has grown up to youth, however, these impressions have ceased to be purely historical, and by giving rise to meditation on the origin and consequences of those events, have inclined him to the step which he now takes.

He simply trusts that those who differ from him most widely in *sensitment*, will be unable to point out any misstatement of *fact*; and that a *youth* will be pardoned for having observed imprudence and folly, which a little explanation would make apparent to the merest *child*.