

P R E F A C E.

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him; and therefore declines giving any reasons why the plan he has adopted may deserve the preference.

Whoever looks into these Volumes will be better prepared for his future entertainment, if he pleases to consider the work before him as an historical picture gallery, where the different modes and fashions of upwards of two centuries are exhibited in regular succession. The politics and sentiments of Henry VIII. and Elizabeth's time, differ as much from those of William III. and of George I. as the ruff and fardingale in the habits of the former, from the hoop petticoat, and long pockets of the latter. There may be pieces of inferior masters in the gallery; but, doubtless, some Titians and Vandykes will be distinguished.—The relation of the Princess Catherine's reception, with which we open, and of the late Queen of France's marriage, with which we conclude, as they represent the fashions and ceremonial of the respective times, may be thought good companions to the picture of the *Champ de Drap d'Or*, in Windsor Castle.

The Editor cannot conclude, without acknowledging the useful assistance which he has received from the Rev. Dr. Douglas, Residentiary of St. Paul's. It is difficult to say, whether the zeal of that gentleman on every occasion, where a friend is concerned, or the judgment and ability which he exerts in serving him, are most conspicuous.