

P R E F A C E.

THE design of compiling and publishing an AMERICAN GAZETTEER, was conceived, by the Author of the following Work, as early as the year 1786, while he was travelling through the United States, for the purpose of collecting materials for his *American Geography*. This design, perfectly coinciding in its subject with his other work, has never since been relinquished : Opportunities have been carefully improved to procure information necessary to its accomplishment.

THE Author's professional duties, however—the delicate state of his health, and the attention he has found it necessary to pay to the revision, correction and enlargement of the several editions of his *Geographical Work*, have delayed the completion of the *Gazetteer* much longer than was at first contemplated : but the delay has enabled him to render the Work much more accurate and perfect, than it otherwise must have been, by availing himself of a large mass of information, contained in the numerous maps, pamphlets, and larger works, which have been brought into public view, in the course of a few years past.

Soon after the plan of this Work was conceived, and some little progress made in collecting materials for its accomplishment, the Author was informed that Capt. THOMAS HUTCHINS, then Geographer General of the United States, contemplated a Work of the same kind : to him, as being from the nature of his office, far more competent to the task, he cheerfully resigned his pretensions, and made him a tender of all the materials he had collected. But, with a kindness and generosity which flowed naturally from his amiable and noble mind, Capt. Hutchins declined the offer, relinquished his design, and put into the hands of the Author all the collections he had made, together with his maps and explanatory pamphlets, which have contributed not a little to enrich this Work.

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