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## P R E F A C E.

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READER,

IF you have a Shop to mind, or any other business to do, I advise you to go and do it, and let this book alone; for, I can assure you, it contains nothing of half so much importance to you, as the sale of a skein of thread or a yard of tape. By such a transaction you might possibly make a net profit of half a farthing, a thing, though seemingly of small value, much more worthy your attention than the treasures under the State House at Amsterdam, or all the mines of Peru. Half a farthing might lay the foundation of a brilliant fortune, and sooner than you should be deprived of it by this work, though it may be called my offspring, I would, like the worshippers of Moloch, commit it to the flames with my own hands.

If you are of that sex, vulgarly called the Fair, but which ought always to be called the Divine, let me beseech you, if you value your charms, to proceed no further. Politics is a mixture of anger and deceit,