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### *The* PREFACE.

French, since their late Settlements on the Meschacebe and the Bay of Mexico, are violently suspected to have clandestinely fomented and widen'd the Breach, which occasion'd the butchering of so many hundreds of the Inhabitants of that Colony, with the Burnings, Devastations, and almost intire Desolation thereof.

It is well known that the Frontiers of our Colonies are large, naked, and open, there being scarce any Forts or Garrisons to defend them for near Two Thousand Miles. The dwellings of the Inhabitants are scattering and at a Distance from one another; and its almost impossible according to the present Establishment and Scituation of our Affairs there, from the great Number of our Colonies independent on each other, their different Sorts of Governments, Views, and Interests, to draw any considerable Body of Forces together on an Emergency, though the Safety and Preservation, not only of any particular Colony, but of all the English Plantations on the Continent, were never so nearly concern'd. FOR