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## P R E F A C E.

**T**HE kind reception which these **DISCOURSES** and **ESSAYS** have met with, as well in their original detached state, as in the former joint Edition of them, having in some degree relieved the Author from the anxiety which was at first natural on their account, he shall not now detain the Reader with a long Preface.

HE flatters himself, it will be allowed that neither the fondness of commencing Author, nor any vain confidence of superior talents, could have given birth to the present work, since every thing contained in it will appear to be *occasional*; arising either immediately from Calls of Office, or from other Public Calls, which could neither be slighted nor suffered to pass without Improvement.

SUNDRY of the Discourses, as well as Essays, were written and published by desire, in some of the most difficult and perilous times which the British Colonies ever experienced; with a view, in the Author, to set forth, according to his best abilities, the im-