

INTRODUCTION TO THE READER.

It was not my intention to appear in this shape before the public; my first communication was well nigh ready for insertion, when I saw it announced in the *Mercury* that no more communications on this subject could be admitted into the columns of that paper; it was then my intention of abandoning the matter altogether. I had not at that time seen any thing of the former part of the discussion; but on perusing M.'s letter, I felt an irresistible desire to correct what I considered glaring errors, in that production. I may have been wrong in attacking the opponent of another; but as "Anglicus" expressed but little desire to prolong the discussion, I felt unwilling to allow M.'s assertions to go before the public uncontradicted. My reply would have appeared long ere this, but for two reasons: First, indecision whether to let it appear at all; and secondly, having but little time to devote to the subject, and having somewhat enlarged upon what I had at first intended to communicate through the press. Taking these into consideration will, I feel persuaded, prove a sufficient apology.

In order that I may not be charged by "M" with misquoting such extracts from his letter as I may be disposed to combat, I have given the letter in full, and leave the issue in the hands of a discerning public.

Respectfully yours,