

---

## PREFACE.

---

THE Author of the *North American Sylva* has made me the most grateful return in his power, for the pains I have bestowed upon his publication, by requesting me to dedicate it to my father.

No literary pretensions, I am sensible, can be founded on a labour imperfectly executed, and so humble in its kind, that perfection itself would be without praise. I should not have attached my name to the part which I first translated, nor to the work thus entire, but for the pleasure which I was assured it would afford a revered parent, to whom my obligations exceed the common measure of filial gratitude. In the performance of so extended a task he will discern proofs of that perseverance which is the basis of every valuable character; and in the usefulness of the work, an apology for my diversion from more appropriate pursuits.

The departures that may be observed from the sense of the original are in compliance with notes of the author: with more leisure I could have rendered my style less faulty. I have not escaped the use of impure idioms, which I was studious to avoid. American writers should labour assiduously to weed from their dialect all the pe-