

INTRODUCTION.

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There is, perhaps, little originality in the book, upon the whole; but the idea of getting up such a work has not hitherto, to our knowledge, been acted upon; and if the publication of it should be attended with any measure of success, it may have a tendency to elevate and purify the character of these Albums and Registers hereafter; inasmuch as when people find that "there's a chiel' amang them takin' notes," they will, in all likelihood, be more guarded—perhaps more studious, too, to write well what they do write; and let us hope that in the next edition, we shall be able, not only to add much that may be interesting, but also to furnish the names of our numerous contributors. It has been very annoying to us in compiling the present work, to find such an extreme parsimony of signature; so much so, that in many cases it is difficult to tell where one article ends and another begins in the original.

We now send forth our little pioneer, not without hope that it will meet with some favor; and at all events, without any doubt that the idea thus suggested will hereafter be successfully followed out, whether failure or success be the recompense of our present undertaking.