

# THE BRITISH-AMERICAN REGISTER.

QUEBEC, SATURDAY, 18th. DECEMBER, 1802.

## PROSPECTUS.

A FEW Gentlemen in different parts of the Province, have for some time past, shewn a disposition to support a Periodical work, which should convey to the Inhabitants of this Country, all the Information in which they are interested in a collective capacity; and which should instill into the minds of individuals, sound Principles, a love of learning, of order and propriety. It was thought at the same time, that a work of this kind, though more particularly calculated for Canada, would naturally become a repository of every useful information, concerning the British Provinces in North America, and would thereby be not altogether uninteresting to Foreigners. It was therefore, resolved to attempt the publication.

BUT it was soon discovered that in this Country, where the circulation of such a work must be circumscribed for some time to come; where almost all the Inhabitants are engaged in trade and necessary public or private duties, and where learning is far from being generally diffused, it would be equally difficult to procure, either sufficient patronage to maintain an expensive establishment, or an Individual possessed of sufficient abilities and learning, who would devote his time to an occupation at once so laborious and unprofitable.

To abandon the design altogether, was a matter of serious regret to its friends. It was suggested that a portion of those intervals of leisure, which the most urgent public or private duties necessarily allow, would willingly be dedicated by intelligent and public spirited men, for the purpose of furnishing information and

materials, for a work having such objects in view: and in the hope that this suggestion is not unfounded, the SUBSCRIBER has been induced to commence the work.

IN order to point out the nature of the assistance required, it has been thought necessary to draw up a list of the different articles, which it is wished the work should contain; and it is here respectfully submitted to the Gentlemen who are inclined to favor the undertaking. It may appear to some Gentlemen, that it embraces too many objects; but it is trusted they will consider, that it would have been highly improper, to confine to narrow limits a work to which every Gentleman of learning and abilities throughout the Province, is invited to contribute.

THE Subscriber must of necessity be responsible for every thing that may appear in the work; and that responsibility he is ready to assume in the strictest sense. In a publication which embraces subjects so various, and of which it is an essential quality that it should be equally free to all the King's subjects, some differences of opinion will undoubtedly exist; but it is hoped when these are expressed with decency and candour, he will find a ready indulgence in the liberality of the public: and he trusts that no one who would express his opinions otherwise, will consider himself as invited to assist in this work.

ON the part of the Subscriber, surely no effort will be wanting to make the work worthy of the public favour; but he must be permitted to express his sentiments on the probability of its success, in the words of