

## INTRODUCTION.

---

**T**HE advance and decline in the average price of pig-iron, hogs, corn, and provisions in the markets of our country, for a series of twenty years past, and for certain periods, have been as alternately certain as the diurnal revolutions of the earth upon its axis; and the periods of high and low prices have been as regular in rotation, as the annual return of the four seasons.

Now, READER: You who may study the ups and downs in prices as collated and considered in these pages, and operate in accordance with the advance of prices and tendencies of the times, as here indicated, will surely be successful; whilst those who stubbornly and blindly prosecute on the decline, will do an unprofitable business, and will meet with continued disaster and loss.

I am well aware that my prediction of the downward tendency in the prices of pig-iron, hogs, corn, and provisions, and dull trade for the next two