

INTRODUCTION. v

and then leave it to the Reader to deduce his own Inferences from them.

The House of *Brandenburg* had ancient Pretensions upon four Dutchies in *Silesia*, those of *Iægerndorf*, *Lignitz*, *Brieg*, and *Wohlau*. The Margrave *George*, Cousin and Governor of *Lewis* King of *Bohemia*, sold his Estates in *Hungary*, and purchas'd the Dutchy of *Iægerndorf* of the Lords of *Schellenberg*, in the Year 1524; King *Lewis* gave him the Investiture of that Country, as of an hereditary and alienable Fief; and this whole Transaction was confirm'd by King *Ferdinand* the first, in 1527; the Son of this Margrave, having no Issue, bequeath'd the Dutchy of *Iægerndorf*, by his last Will and Testament, to the Electoral House of *Brandenburg*. *Joaachim Frederic*, who was then Elector, and from whom the present King of *Prussia* is descended, entered upon the peaceable Possession of it; and gave it, in 1607, to the Margrave *John George*, his younger Son. The Margrave, having unfortunately attach'd himself to the Interests of *Frederic* the fifth Elector Palatine, (who had assum'd the Title of King of *Bohemia* in Opposition to the Emperor *Ferdinand* the second) was dispossest'd of his States, and put to the Ban of the Empire, under which he died in 1624. *Ernest*, his innocent Son, and a Minor, in vain made Application for the Restitution of his Father's Patrimony; and dying in 1642, without Is-