

might otherwise have been neglected or forgotten, but by furnishing better and more easy means of information to future historians.

The present compilation originated in accident. A gentleman, of the Editor's acquaintance, in America, proposed to himself the compilation of a history of that country, for which purpose, it was necessary to possess a knowledge of all that had been previously written upon the subject; and the Editor of these sheets, having been for some years in the habit of interesting himself in every publication that related to America, was consulted upon the occasion. Hence proceeded the attempt to acquire that knowledge; and (by a very natural gradation) the present publication, with the hope of reimbursing the expences of the pursuit.

The Editor is conscious of many defects, which he must trust to future efforts of his own, (or what is as much his wish) to the more successful labors of others, to amend. The present volume was compiled without  
assistance,