

P R E F A C E.

THE Editor has already laid before the public the outlines of his plan. He now submits, with all possible respect, the first specimen of its execution. He cannot, however, suffer it to go abroad, without expressing his gratitude for the universal approbation, with which his proposals have been received, and the very respectable subscription under the patronage of which the work commences.

HE is aware how small the credit is which a mere compiler can claim; but he has found that the labour which he is obliged to undergo, is by no means proportionably small. He will not regret his trouble if after all his readers be put pleased with his earnest and, he hopes, not unsuccessful endeavours to contribute to their improvement or amusement. He cannot suppose that the present selection is just as every individual would wish it to be. Such a thing would be impossible. But he trusts the candid will always recollect how different the descriptions for whom the compilation was made; and consequently, how various the tastes with which the Editor must hold himself obliged to comply. He might plead also the difficulties attending an infant undertaking, in extenuation of the defects which may be found in it; but, without availing himself of this reasonable apology, he will trust the Nova-Scotia Magazine in comparison with any that is now published in America or Great-Britain itself, either for quantity, variety and importance of the matter, or correctness and beauty of the press-work.

EVERY thing that is connected with the history of this Province must be interesting to the people who inhabit it. The compilation begins, it is presumed, not improperly, with the life of the first proprietor, written with very great ability. And it shall be followed by such other Historical Memoirs, as shall occur in the Editor's reading, or the kindness of his friends shall communicate. It is not to be supposed that these will come in regular succession, according to the series of time. A connected history of the Province is yet wanting, and much to be desired. If common sense deceive us not, we have reason to expect it from a hand which is capable of doing ample justice to such an undertaking.

AS the first volume of this work commences in the middle of the year 1739, to make it more complete and intelligible, the political part has been extended backwards, as far as to comprehend the important transactions, which followed the late illness of the King. The chronicle in like manner, contains the most interesting articles that have appeared in the English prints, from the beginning of the year; and still farther, a chronological summary of the principal events in 1788. In the Account of new books, also a catalogue is given of the most distinguished publications which have appeared last year; so that the present number may, in some sort, be considered as introductory to those which are to follow. For want of sufficient materials, as well as room, the affairs of Ireland have been left unnoticed; but they will be brought up from the month of January in the succeeding numbers of this work.

THE Editor conceives, that the Nova-Scotia Magazine might be made highly conducive to the improvement of this and the sister Provinces.