

## TO THE PUBLIC.

*Fellow-Britons.* To these gallant Individuals He will turn with a redoubled Veneration, when He reflects that the Foundations of the firmest Pillars which, for a long Series of Years, have supported the magnificent Fabric of our National Importance, were laid (if the Expression be allowable) in the Ocean.

Yet, howsoever needless it may be to dwell on the Utility of the Work, I am bound to inform the Public of those Materials which will assist me in the Prosecution of it.

The valuable Productions which have hitherto appeared on this Subject, have not escaped my Notice, and will, at every proper Opportunity, engross my farther Attention. I shall often follow (perhaps, with unequal Steps,) the accurate and discerning Mr. *Donnell*; on many Occasions I must quit his Path, and, at last, proceed beyond the Point at which He rested: In either Case, I hope my Progress will at least be entertaining, if not instructive to Those who may accompany me. The Gentleman whom I have named is almost the last, and, confessedly, the best Author who hath written diffusely on this Matter. He must be considered as [a judicious Collector of the chief Varieties of Naval History into one View, and as a meritorious Candidate for that literary Honour which it would be the highest Injustice not to allow him, in this Place.

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