



INTRODUCTION.

THESE private Memoirs were collected from my Minutes, at the earnest Request of my Second Consort; for the Use of our Family: that we might have a Memento ever ready at Hand to excite, in our selves Gratitude & Thankfulness to GOD; and in our Offspring a due Sense of their Dependance on the SOVEREIGN of the Universe, from the Precariousness and Vicissitudes of all sublunary Enjoyments. In this State and for this End they have laid by me for some Tears: At length falling into the Hands of some for whose Judgment I had a value; I was pressed for a Copy for the Publick: and others desiring of me to extract Particulars from thence, which the multiplicity and urgency of my Affairs would not admit, I have now determined to suffer their Publication. I have made scarce any Addition to this Manual, except in the Chapter of Creatures, which I was urged to have made much larger; and might have greatly enlarged, but I feared it would grow beyond its Proportion. I have been likewise advised to give a particular Account of my Father, which I am not very fond of; having no Dependance on the Virtues or Honours of my Ancestors, to recommend me to the Favour of GOD or Men: Nevertheless, because some think that it is a Respect due to the Memory of my Parents, whose Name I was obliged to mention in the following Story, and a satisfaction which their Posterity might justly expect from me; I shall give some Account, tho' as brief as possible.

The flourishing State of NEW ENGLAND (before the unhappy Eastern Wars) drew my Father hither, whose first Settlement was on Kennebeck River at a Place called Merry-meeting Bay; where he dwelt for some Tears: 'till, on the Death of my Grand Parents, He with his Family return'd to England, to settle his Affairs. This done; He came over with

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