

and ill received as they may be, for the moment, will sometimes make, involving favorable or fatal consequences, according to circumstances, times, and the direction they take from these. The writer, however, gives no version purely his own, of any of the important public matters submitted to his reader, whom it is his desire faithfully to instruct, by the production of authentic evidences of the facts he relates, or by references to such sources of information as he thinks are to be relied upon, without exaggeration, or extenuation of any thing.

The actors, in the political drama that will be produced, of whatsoever party they may be, are allowed to tell their own tale, lest the writer should misunderstand and unintentionally do them injustice, and the reader will consequently have the advantage of judging for himself, of their pretensions and of their doctrines, by their own shewing and the fruits they have produced. He has endeavoured to guard himself against his own prepossessions and prejudices, neither approving nor condemning, otherwise than as the matters related bear on their face their approval or condemnation, and to confine himself within the province of a faithful pioneer of history, recording the things good or evil, proper to be remembered either as subjects to be admired and imitated, or to be reprobated and avoided in after times—beacons upon which those who are to follow us may be guided and shape their course accordingly—relating such matters of ordinary interest, however, as are generally known and admitted to be facts, and which, if not so, may easily be contradicted, for his reader's information and amusement.

Four distinct and well marked epochs in the history