

P R E F A C E.

THE following work was begun many years since : the appearance, soon after, of several books, on a plan nearly similar, and the want of sufficient leisure, induced the Author to relinquish his design. Perceiving, from the subsequent offer of a premium for the best written work of the kind, that another was wanted, he resumed and completed his undertaking.

It was his purpose to present a correct and interesting narrative of all the important events in the history of his country : to exhibit, in a strong light, the principles of political and religious freedom which our forefathers professed, and for which they fought and conquered ; to record the numerous examples of fortitude, courage, and patriotism, which have rendered them illustrious ; and to produce, not so much by moral reflections, as by the tenor of the narrative, virtuous and patriotic impressions upon the mind of the reader. It was his aim to render the book worthy to be read, not only in the academies and schools of his country, but by that very numerous portion of his fellow citizens, who have seldom the opportunity to peruse more voluminous productions ; and by those who might wish to review their studies, and fix in their memory the succession of events : and it was also his aim to exhibit a style which should be correct and pure ; should be free from ambitious ornament, and from those faults with which the writers of this country have been too justly charged. He by no means supposes that he has accomplished all he aimed at.

It was thought indispensable that a history, intended to be accessible to all, should contain some account of the