

**PREFACE.**

**T**HE design of this Publication is, to provide, at last, some authentic information on a subject, where misapprehension, and misrepresentation have so long prevailed, that it is become necessary to have something in print, which may be referred to, for vindicating the known and long established doctrine of the law of England, against the assumptions and speculations of general reasoners; and that such persons may be apprized, what are, and what are not, the topics of argument, and the principles of decision, that would be resorted to, if this question should become a matter of judicial cognisance in Westminster Hall.