

INTRODUCTION
TO THE SECOND EDITION
OF
THE FIRST VOLUME
OF THE
HISTORY OF THE BRITISH COLONIES.

A SECOND edition of the first volume of the '*History of the British Colonies*' was called for before the fourth volume had issued from the Press ; in cheerfully complying with the demand, I cannot refrain from offering a few observations not entirely irrelevant to the work, but which are far from being prompted either by motives of vanity or of personal considerations. I should be doing injustice to my own feelings—and wanting in duty to the Colonies, were I to refrain from expressing my deep sense of gratitude for the kindness I have received from their Majesties, and from the several branches of the Royal Family,—a kindness to which an enlightened public have added the testimony of their approbation. Though I may not have deserved the high encomiums that have been passed on my undertaking,—and though I feel most sensibly my manifold deficiencies, I will not, under the cloak of an affected humility, deny that in prosecuting towards a completion the present work, I ardently sought to merit in some degree, however slight, the patronage of my