## PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

for it cannot be imputed to the wisdom of its councils, that its naval captains fought with skill and bravery. Several of those officers were educated in the British navy, and acquired their knowledge in a school which it was not in the power of the United States to create. The generals and officers commanding their land forces have displayed every thing but knowledge, conduct, and valour; and their troops, every thing but discipline and subordination. One army, after a march of some hundred miles into the interior, turns short round, and runs home frightened at an enemy which it had never seen; and leaves its unfortunate commander behind it, lamenting his hard fate, and a troublesome diarrhœa. Another sets out on a contrary direction; but, instead of pursuing its enemies, is employed in running after pigs and poultry, and plundering the houses of its countrymen. One officer and his corps are surrounded and taken by a handful of British; another surrenders a fort without firing a shot; and a third, who is no less a person than the commander-in-