
P R E F A C E.

AS the Public must ultimately decide on the merits of every work, and their opinion is neither to be corrupted by flattery, nor biased by prejudice, the Editor thinks nothing else necessary, by way of Introduction, than to open the plan of the Collection, and to assign a few reasons, for adding one more to the numerous publications of this kind, which the world is already possessed of.

The principal idea which has prevailed in the choice of the materials, has been, not to dwell too long on any one subject, or any one period; and to select such papers, as mark most strongly the characters of celebrated Princes and their Ministers, and illustrate some memorable æra, or remarkable series of events. It seems superfluous to observe, that the introductions prefixed to most of the articles will connect (as far as was practicable) the different divisions of the work with general history, and lead the reader's attention to such points as he may think deserve it best. Notes are occasionally inserted at the bottom of the page, with the same view: and it is hoped they will not be thought either tedious or trifling.