

sonal knowledge and observation ; and on the mass of general information, of great credibility and consistency, preserved among the Highlanders of the last century. From the confidence derived from these circumstances, I fear I have been led to attach more importance to the subject than will be generally admitted to belong to it, and to have expressed myself with a freedom and warmth which many may consider reprehensible. If I am found to have thus erred, and to have expressed myself in language unsuitable to the subject, or unbecoming the character which I am ambitious to maintain, my only defence is an honest and perfect conviction of the truth of all I have advanced, and of the vital importance which I have, I hope not improperly, attached to several points touched upon both in the Sketches and in the Military History.

The origin of these Sketches and Military Details was simply this :—When the 42d regiment was removed from Dublin to Donaghadee in the year 1771, the baggage was sent round by sea. The vessel was unfortunately driven on shore in a gale of wind, and wrecked ; the greater part of the cargo and baggage was lost, and the portion saved, especially the regimental books and records, much injured. A misfortune somewhat similar occurred when the army, under the command of the Earl of Moira, landed at Ostend in June 1794. The transports were ordered round to Helvoetsluys, with orders to wait the further movements of the troops. The vessels had not been long there, when the enemy invaded Holland in great force, and, entering Helvoetsluys, seized on the transports in the harbour. Among the number of vessels