

PREFACE.

SUCH is the authority of Custom, that nothing is now given to the Public without a Preface.— Though not

“*Oblig'd by hunger, or request of Friends,*”

I nevertheless find myself, on the present occasion, under the necessity of submitting to this same authority.

It must naturally excite some degree of surprize in the mind of the Reader, to see the Public in possession of papers which embrace only a private concern of Col. Delancy, were not some explanation of the motive which induced to the publication, to accompany them. I will now proceed to give this explanation with the waste of as few words as possible: And not only so, but I will relate the manner in which I became possessed of these very interesting papers.

FIRST, as to my motive to this publication. Let me then say, that the question, whether any such thing as Negro Slavery can legally exist in this Province, has long occupied the attention both of the learned and unlearned among us. It has, indeed, lately undergone a judicial investigation, but without any judicial decision. Now, whether any particular Negro (admitting him to be a Slave) belongs either to A or B, is a matter in which none but the litigating parties are directly interested. Therefore a judicial decision of it, can only disappoint the hopes of one of two Men. But when it becomes questionable, whether any *particular thing*

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