

## PREFACE

TO THE LONDON EDITION.

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*THOUGH* the following sheets have been written and sent to press in considerable haste, on account of some temporary considerations which add to the immediate importance of their subject, the author has spared no pains that could tend to guard his statements from mistake. His facts are for the most part, derived, as the reader will perceive, from those authentic and original sources of information, the records of our courts of prize: and it may therefore perhaps be surmised, that some practitioner in those courts, if not the author of the argument, has at least contributed his aid, in furnishing premises for its use.

Adverting to the probability of such a conjecture, and to an erroneous notion which he knows to be very prevalent, namely, that the practitioners in the admiralty courts have an interest opposite to the