

PREFACE.

THE two following Letters were written in reply to an inquiry respecting the appointment of Agents in England for the English Colonies in North America, previously to the declaration of their Independence. The first is from Mr Bancroft, the distinguished author of the 'History of the United States,' a work of great learning and ability. The second is from Mr Sparks, the author of many very interesting biographies of persons eminent in the history of the settlement of America. The practice which these letters illustrate was pursued on several occasions by the House of Assembly in Canada. The inefficiency of military governors in the civil government of that province—their partial and almost corrupt representations of the state of the country—and the astounding ignorance of the Colonial office respecting its public institutions and its politics, made such appointments urgently necessary. In some instances their results were, as in 1827, very useful to the Government at home as well as satisfactory to those by whom the appointments were made. The Agent was commissioned by a vote of