

P R E F A C E.

WHILST England is blessed with a naval Force superior to any Nation in the World ; whilst she is blessed with every Material sufficient to improve that Force ; whilst our naval Strength is the chief Defence of this Nation, and the only Means to humble the Pride and distress the Trade of our inveterate Enemies ; and whilst she is blessed with a number of able and experienced Officers and Seamen, that have Courage and Resolution to undertake any Scheme that the Government finds necessary to be executed for the Interest of this Kingdom, it is surely the Duty of every Well-wisher to his Country to employ his leisure Hours in Thoughts that may be useful, especially in the Improvement of our naval Force, or on any other Means that may render Attacks at Sea or on the Enemy's Coast, more probable of succeeding, and with as little Risque and Hazard as possible of the Lives of so many brave and useful Subjects.

It is from this Motive only, that I have ventured to set my Hand to Paper to shew a willingness at least to contribute to the Public Good ;

and
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*The chief object of this volume is to give a
summary of the progress of the naval
army of the British Empire, from the
beginning of the reign of Henry VII. to the
present time, and to show the
state of the navy in the
17th, 18th, and 19th
centuries.*