

P R E F A C E .

THE following extract from a MSS. about to be brought before the public in a Work, entitled "Wanderings in the States," being such as cannot fail to be interesting to almost every subject, claiming Britain as a home, and more particularly the soldiers serving at present in the Canadas,—the incident upon which the extract is founded is not only a fact, but of very recent occurrence, and the Author, who has served in almost every part of the world, and whose zeal for the Service has ever been most unremitting, made a point, during his short visit to the United States, during the month of November, to ascertain actually how our deserters were treated,—and from the peculiarity of the circumstance under which he was induced to more especially do so, the meeting of the corporal and four men of the 20th, he resolved upon making it a particular subject for his intended new Work, and at the same time hoped to be the simple means of preventing, if possible, our soldiers from subjecting themselves to such open misery, by describing their situations as they actually are, in the columns of one of the Public Journals. Having done so, and from the very favorable reception it has met with by very many, and who all seemed to see the probable benefit that might accrue from its extensive circulation amongst the soldiers,—but fearing that the circulation of a news-

paper might be too limited, and scarcely ever fall into the hands of the soldier, the Author has thought fit to issue it in a pamphlet form, cheap, in order that it may be more extensively circulated amongst the Army—for whom it has been expressly extracted from the MSS.

The Author, at the same time, would wish to remind the reader, that the language used to relate the short narrative, is drawn from the conversation and sentiments expressed by the parties introduced; and trusts that the good intention will be appreciated by every soldier, and that he will not be misled with an opinion that it has been made up expressly for the soldiers' perusal. It was originally intended to form part of a Work in common with other matter, but was considered so interesting, and so applicable to our Army, that it is published with the hope that every soldier would be able to either read it or hear it read, and be thus warned from taking so foolish and fatal a step as desertion, which often occurs from the most simple and absurd causes, and results in the most poignant distress, in both mind and prospects, which but a little forethought would prevent. To meet bravely any difficulty or any punishment that may be the upshot of his misdemeanor, however severe, will be trifling, indeed, to the misery experienced by desertion, as will be seen in the cases related in the following true narrative.