

P R E F A C E.

others, I have already said, were the Incitements to quit my Obscurity: And I shall now give some Account of the following Work, and of the Steps I have taken to make my Appearance in as favourable a Light as possible.

The major Part is an acknowledged Collection, or Translation (as such general Works must be) from the best Authors, who in most Languages have wrote on the Subject, and more especially from *Monf. Savary's Dictionnaire de Commerce*; corrected, however, and supplied by those Observations which a thirty Year's Practice, more than half spent abroad, and not negligently run through, had enabled me to make: And I think I may, without Vanity, in some Measure deem myself a competent Judge in these Affairs, that have been my chief Study and the principal Business of my Life: Yet I readily submit my Labours to the Censure of superior Abilities, and rather wish than fear to see them improved to the Advantage of my Countrymen; being conscious, that, notwithstanding all my Care and Assiduity, they stand in need of great Indulgence, for which I must rely on my Reader's Candour. And I owe my Acknowledgments (which I desire in this publick Manner to pay) to that worthy Promoter of Trade, *Mr. R. Norcliffe of Hull*, who generously furnished me (even unasked) with many judicious Remarks on the Traffick of *Denmark, Norway, and the Sound*; from which I extracted the greatest Part of what I have said about it.---- *Francis Mannoek, Esq;* favoured me with the Imposts on Merchandize at *Cadix*; as *Mr. John Debonaire* did with the Trials about Non-compliance with accepted Bills (in which he was a Party) in *Portugal*, and with an Estimate of our Commerce to that Kingdom.---- *Mr. John Heaton*, (a Gentleman of the greatest Candour and Benevolence) and *Mr. John Rayner*, both Attornies, and deservedly placed among the few at the Head of their Profession, were so kind as to lend me some Assistance; as *Mr. Crawford*, and *Mr. -----*, two other noted Attornies did: By all whom I beg my Thanks may be accepted.

The Form I have put my Book in, I believed would best suit my Intentions of having every Particular readily turned to, as Occasion should require, which the large Contents at the Beginning, and extensive Index at the End, will immediately lead my Reader to. And as every Subject is placed by itself, the Chain of Reading is not broke through, as it is in the Dictionarial and some other Methods; therefore I hope *this*, which I have elected, will be approved.

And though a Collection is not esteemed to carry with it a Proof of Genius and Understanding like a genuine Composition, yet the Labour must be allowed greater, as 'tis certainly more easy for a Person to pen his own Thoughts than dexterously to select and range those