

threaten to afflict, and disturb the nations of Europe.

The Editor has entered more at large into the details of the discovery and early history of the American Continent than some readers may approve of; but, in adopting this plan, he was influenced by the conviction that the present state of America cannot be fully understood, nor the character of its people fairly appreciated, without a reference to the origin of its colonization, and some knowledge of the various steps by which it has attained its present importance.

As it was one of the main objects of the Editor to consult the wants of that class of readers who have not access to numerous writers on the same subject; he has liberally availed himself both of the researches of his predecessors, and the labors of his contemporaries. The present work aspires to no higher title than a faithful compilation, or digest, of the facts furnished by others; and if the Editor has succeeded in arranging them in a lucid order, he has fully accomplished his original purpose.