

America, and of the settlements made by the several nations of Europe in the West India islands, will complete my plan.

THE two volumes which I now publish, contain an account of the discovery of the New World, and of the progress of the Spanish arms and colonies there. This is not only the most splendid portion of the American story, but so much detached, that it forms a perfect whole by itself, remarkable for the unity of the subject. As the principles and maxims of the Spaniards in planting colonies, which have been adopted in some measure by every nation in Europe, are unfolded in this part of my work; it will serve as a proper introduction to the history of their establishment in America, and convey such information concerning this important article of policy, as may be deemed no less interesting than curious.

IN describing the achievements and institutions of the Spaniards in the New World, I have departed in many instances from the accounts of preceding historians, and have often related facts which seem to have been unknown to them. It is a duty I owe the Public, to mention the sources from which I have derived such intelligence,