

INTRODUCTION.

THE British nation, renowned through every age, never gained by all her conquests, even when her arms subdued France, and thundered at the gates of Paris, such a valuable acquisition as her settlements in North America. To lawless power, to faction, and to party rage, these spreading colonies owed their firmest establishment. When the mother-country was in the most deplorable of situations, when the axe was laid to the root of the constitution, and all the fair blossoms of civil liberty were destroyed; even then, from the bare trunk, despoiled of all its honours, shot forth these branches, as from a stock, where native vigour was still kept alive.

The impolitic persecutions of king Charles, and his unwise ministry, forced numbers of his subjects to seek abroad that liberty of conscience they were denied at home. Happy had it been for that unfortunate prince, if he had never checked these emigrations. Had those, of whom he condescended to ask counsel, seen and attended to his interest, and that of the nation, they would have considered