

PREFACE.

IN presenting the following pages to the public, the Compiler feels it a duty incumbent on him to introduce them by a few prefatory remarks, on the subject of the deviation from the original plan of publication. In the pamphlets on the British and Foreign Mining Companies, the plan adopted was that of furnishing copies verbatim of the original prospectuses, with a view of putting the Proprietors and the public in possession of the advantages held out by the Companies at the period of their formation, and making them acquainted with the names of the Directors and other Officers of the Company. The remarks on their progress and operations, obtained from authentic sources, with the Table and Summary, it was considered would render them more complete; and, in accordance with the original intention of the Compiler, it was announced, that a third part, on the same plan, embracing all the miscellaneous Companies, would be published at an early period. The impracticability, however, of giving the prospectuses verbatim of six hundred and twenty-four Companies, and the arduous and invidious task, in many instances, of reporting their progress and operations, induced him to alter the plan; and while he retained the more important particulars, determined him to exclude unnecessary and lengthened remarks, and confine himself solely to figures.

The inutility of publishing copies of prospectuses of abandoned or projected Companies will be self-evident; and, in the rejection, in every instance, of those details, it will, he trusts, be found that while it does not detract from the value of the present work, the information furnished will form a curious record of the extent of the speculations of 1824 and 1825, and be found generally useful and interesting to the public. In addition to the particulars of Joint Stock Companies of 1824 and 5, the Compiler has annexed a tabular view of the Joint Stock Companies formed antecedent to that period, which renders the work complete.

He deems it only right to observe, in closing these brief remarks, that the whole of the particulars given have been obtained from the original prospectuses and other authentic documents, (in the possession of the Compiler) and that all the calculations may be confidently relied upon, much time and attention having been devoted to the subject.

London, Feb. 1, 1827.