

The PREFACE.

It is not to be expected that a performance of this kind can be written equally throughout. In some places the subject refuses all ornament; and the matter, dry in itself, is by no art to be made otherwise: in some a contagion communicated from the dulness of materials, which yet were necessary to the work, may probably appear; in many, and perhaps the most blameable parts, the author alone must be answerable.

Having spoken perhaps a little too hardly of my materials, I must except the assistance I have had from the judicious collection called Harris's voyages. There are not many finer pieces than the history of Brazil in that collection; the light in which the author sets the events in that history is fine and instructive; an uncommon spirit prevails through it; and his remarks are every where striking and deep. The little sketch I have given in the part of Portuguese America, if it has any merit, it is entirely due to that original. However the accounts given of many