

TO THE READER.

AFTER considerable delay, I have fulfilled my engagement to the publick, with respect to the history of the settlement and wars of the western parts of Virginia and Pennsylvania. The causes of the delay of the work were unavoidable, and a recital of them can be of no service.

Whether the "Notes" are well executed, or otherwise, must be left to the candid decision of my country, and I am well aware the decision will speedily be made.

It will be the opinion of some readers, that I have bestowed too great a portion of the book, on the primitive aspect of the country, and the history of the state of society and manners of its early inhabitants.

My reason, for having bestowed so much attention on these subjects is this, these matters of our early history, which, if faithfully preserved, will hereafter be highly interesting, are fast hastening into oblivion, and in a few more years would be totally lost. On the contrary, the events of the war are much longer remembered.

Had we a similar history of the early state of any of the European countries, to that which is here presented to the world, of our own. With how much interest would this record be read by all classes of people? For instance, had we the memorials of the people, who erected those rude monuments which are scattered over our country, the record would give a classic character to every section of the new world; but in every region of