

## The PREFACE.

It may be proper here to observe, that some of the French Letters have been entirely omitted, as containing nothing but Relations of the Conversions of Infidels and other Matters peculiarly appertaining to the Missioners, which would only have swell'd the Volume and perhaps been acceptable to none. Of the Letters inserted, several are also much abridg'd; where they run out into Religious Discourses and Accounts of the Lives of some Missioners, as may be seen peculiarly mention'd at the End of some of the said Letters.

If any shall happen to think there is still too much of the particular Actions of the Missioners and of Religious Matters in some of the Letters, they are desir'd to consider that something must be allow'd for Connection, and above all that in most of those Parts, which cursorily read over may seem to be barely Religious, there is, when rightly Consider'd, much Information, as to the Manners, Customs and Idolatrous Worship of the Indian Nations.

The Missioners being settled Inhabitants of those Countries they write of, speaking the Languages and reading the Books, are able to acquaint us with many Curiosities, which Travellers in passing through can never be Masters of. The Writers of those Letters make the Knowledge of those People they are among their Study, and converse with all Sorts from the Highest to the Meanest; they are Men chosen out of Many for that Purpose, and consequently the only Persons that can set us Right in our Notions of those People so remote from us, and so different in all Respects. Having premis'd these few Lines touching the Translation, some Observations concerning the Original, made by the French Editor shall be added, in regard they serve to clear some Difficulties which may occur in the Letters and make known several Particulars that may be acceptable.

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