

P R E F A C E.

THE letters and journals of Lord Byron, with the interwoven notes of Mr. Moore, should have superseded the utility of writing any other account of that extraordinary man. The compilation has, however, not proved satisfactory, and the consequence, almost of necessity, is, that many other biographical portraits of the noble poet may yet be expected; but will they materially alter the general effect of Mr. Moore's work? I think not; and have accordingly confined myself, as much as practicable, consistent with the end in view, to an outline of his Lordship's intellectual features—a substratum only of the general mass of his character.

If Mr. Moore has evinced too eager an anxiety to set out the best qualities of his friend to the brightest advantage, it ought to be recollected that no less was expected of him. The spirit of the times ran strong against Lord Byron, as a man; and it was natural, that Mr. Moore should attempt to stem the tide. I respect the generosity with which he has executed his task. I think that he has made no striking misre-