

## ESSAY &c.

IT is remarked by Sir William Jones, in his elegant *Dissertation on the Orthography of Asiatick Words*, that “ every man, who has occasion to compose tracts on Asiatick literature, or to translate from the Asiatick languages, must always find it convenient and sometimes necessary, to express *Arabian, Indian, and Persian* words or sentences, in the characters generally used among *Europeans* ; and almost every writer in those circumstances has a method of notation peculiar to himself : But none has yet appeared in the form of a complete system, so that each original sound may be rendered invariably by one appropriate symbol, conformably to the natural order of articulation, and with a due regard to the primitive power of the *Roman* alphabet, which modern Europe has in general adopted.” This accomplished scholar then adds—that “ a want of attention to this object has occasioned great confusion in History and Geography ;” and “ that the ancient *Greeks*, who made a voluntary sacrifice of truth to the delicacy of their ears, appear to have altered by design almost all the oriental names, which they introduced into their elegant, but romantick histories ; and even their more modern Geographers, who were too vain, perhaps, of their own language to