

PREFACE.

UPWARDS of twenty years have now elapsed since the first Edition of the "MYSTERIOUS STRANGER" was published. In the course of this time, I have had occasion to visit the United States at four different periods, which gave me frequent opportunities of enquiring after the notorious individual who forms the subject of the following narrative, and of becoming acquainted with many of the prominent features of his conduct and career, from the time of his banishment from this Province, and during his subsequent travels through Nova-Scotia, the States of Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New-York, Maryland, and Upper Canada.

As I pursued my enquiries, the facts relating to his extraordinary career became increasingly interesting and astonishing, insomuch that I considered it my duty to the world to publish them, that all might, in some measure, be prepared to guard, as much as possible, against the approaches of so artful and designing a villain, who, from a life spent in the practice of depredations, thefts, and robberies, has become so accomplished in his diabolical profession as to set mankind at defiance.

My resolution to publish this THIRD Edition of his Memoirs is also in compliance with repeated solicitations from Boston, New-York, Connecticut, and various other parts of the United States, as well as from many persons in New-Brunswick, Nova-Scotia, and Upper Canada. And to render the Work as complete, interesting, and acceptable as possible, it begins with a short sketch of his life and character, from the time of his first appearance at Windsor, in Nova-Scotia, in the year 1812, to the time of his apprehension and confinement in my custody. It presents, also, a full account of his astonishing behaviour during the period of his imprisonment under my keeping in the years 1814 and '15, with his remarkable escape from prison, and his