

P R E F A C E.

THE editor can now congratulate his readers and himself, on having brought this work to a conclusion. He expected to have done so, at a much more early date. Unforeseen difficulties arose to prevent the accomplishment of his design*. The best apology for this delay, is to point out some of the principal improvements that it was found requisite to make to the original publication, and which have principally occasioned the tardiness of the editor in fulfilling his engagements.

In the article of *Poland*, besides numerous corrections in point of style, and the omission, or emendation of many exceptionable passages, the history of the establishment of the new constitution in 1791, and its subsequent overthrow, have been newly written for the present edition. The essay on Greek literature, in the succeeding article, has also been added, and another, on a similar subject, under the head of *Turkey in Asia*. With respect to the internal administration of the Ottoman empire, and the domestic manners of its people, some interesting details have been borrowed from Baron de Tott, and M. de Peyssonnel. The article of *Tartary in Asia* will also be found considerably improved. To that of China large additions have been subjoined, and in particular, besides other heads, under those of *population* and *literature*. *India within the Ganges* has, among other additions, an article extending to twelve pages, on the administration of the British East-India Company. The history, under the same head, being eight pages, is, a few paragraphs excepted, entirely new. To *the states of Barbary* there has been added a new article on their history. The united states of America occupy from p. 243, to p. 580, inclusive, in the present volume. It was noticed, in the preface to vol. I. that the account given by Guthrie was altogether trifling. It has been entirely laid aside. Under this head, though the editor has exerted himself to the utmost for obtaining authentic materials, he is sensible that his account is at a very great distance from perfect accuracy. The rev. Jedidiah Morse, author of the *Universal Geography*, has furnished the principal part of it. To render it as complete as possible, application has been made to gentlemen residing in different states; and to their assistance the work is indebted for many interesting particulars that have not hitherto been published.

From the multiplicity of subjects that are to be examined, and the multiplicity of opinions that arise upon every subject, it becomes a task of the greatest delicacy to

* One reason for the delay has been, that the work has extended to fifty-six numbers, instead of forty-eight, which were originally proposed. The eight extra numbers have been delivered gratis to the subscribers, agreeably to engagement.