PREFACE.

The walks of science having been, for more than thirty years, the author's chief delight, particularly those sublime ones which relate to practical as well as theoretical architecture, he has naturally been led, in the course of his contemplations, to trace the important footsteps of the ancients, in their invention and adoption of those fundamental rules, which have, in later times, governed the improvements of every age and civilized country.

For many ages prior to these attempts, we find that no standard existed whereby to resolve or proportionate the formation of any article of convenience, that man by his necessity might be led to contrive; and if, when executed, it answered the