PREFACE.

That he will have to contend, as heretofore, with the opposition of envy, the illiberality of prejudice, the insolence of scepticism, and the criticism of ignorant insignificance, he cannot doubt; for as the celebrated Fulton observes, in his excellent treatise on the improvement of canal navigation,* "Men of the least genius are ever the first to depreciate, and the last to commend, and for an obvious reason, they have not sense to know the produce of genius, when they see it: but

"Men of true genius glow with liberal spirit,
And bind a garland round the bust of merit,
While blockheads, void of wisdom's grateful light,
Bury distinction in eternal night.†

But the author is not insensible of the many defects, which, from various causes, will no doubt accompany this work, and which those who are

* This work was published in England by that gentleman, in the year 1796, a work worthy the perusal of all those who indeed regard the prosperity of these United States; and from the prolific cabinet of knowledge that work has sprung, the public may without disappointment expect, many valuable additions on that subject, is fully matured, and now in store.

† Moorehead.