HISTORY

OF

BRITISH INDIA.

BOOK I.

(1527—1707)

Commencement of the British Intercourse with India; and the Circumstances of its Progress, till the Establishment of the Company on a durable Basis by the Act of the sixth of Queen Anne.

LITTLE more than two centuries have elapsed since a few British merchants humbly solicited from the princes of India permission to traffic in their territories. Book I.

The British dominion now embraces nearly the whole of that vast region which extends from Cape Comorin to the mountains of Tibet, and from the mouths of the Brahmapootra to the sources of the Indus.

To collect, from its numerous and scattered sources, the information necessary to give clear and accurate ideas of this great empire, and of the transactions through which it has been acquired, is the object of the present undertaking. It is proposed: Object of the work.

I. To describe the circumstances in which the intercourse of this nation with India commenced, and the particulars of its early progress, till the era when it could first be regarded as placed on a firm and durable basis:

II. To exhibit as accurate a view as possible of the people with whom our countrymen had thus begun to transact—of their character, history, manners,