

PROJECT

OF A

SERIES OF HISTORIES OF THE NEW WORLD.

ALTHOUGH America alone is generally understood by the term New World, I here give it a wider extent—including all countries unknown to Europeans before the fourteenth century. The following is a brief plan of this series of histories, which I have not thought fitting to lay before the public till I was able to announce the first part as already in press.

It should be observed, in the first place, that most of the provinces of what is called the New World have no connection with each other, and that there are few whose history naturally blends. What relation, for example, is there between New England and New Spain? It is scarcely possible to write the history of a single European kingdom, without touching on that of all the others; yet no one would think of writing a general history of all that part of the Old World: how much more unreasonable would it be to seek to make a connected work on all America! We must then separate the parts that have no dependence on each other; unite those which cannot be treated separately without falling into repetitions or mutilating them, such as are New France and Louisiana, and give the public all these histories successively. Now, to secure a uniformity, so as to form a whole, connected by the method observed, I have adopted this plan.

At the head of each history I will give an exact catalogue of all the authors who have written on the same subject, were it only incidentally, provided what they say deserves attention. I will at the same time note the assistance which I have derived from each, and my reasons for following or disregarding them; which I shall endeavor so to do, that no prejudice and interest but that of truth shall guide my pen.

To this first preliminary I shall add a second, which is a general notice of the country. In this I shall introduce all that concerns the character of the nation, its origin, government, religion, good or bad qualities, the climate and nature of the country, its chief wealth; but I