

## AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

THE object of the present publication is to furnish a sketch of the population, natural productions, industry, and commerce of the Philippine Islands, together with an account of the public revenue and expences of administration. It is also intended to convey a correct idea of the mode of government pursued in the provinces, and, more particularly, to describe the ravages committed on the coasts by the Mahometan pirates who infest the Indian Archipelago. On these various topics such reflections will be added, as are likely to call the attention of the public to the present state of one of our most interesting colonies, the principal inducement that has determined the writer to put the following outline to press.

A residence of eight years, and the official situation he held during that time, in Manilla, have furnished him with no ordinary opportunities of obtaining information on the various branches and subjects he has taken upon himself to treat; and in the present undertaking he feels a greater degree of confidence, from the circumstance of his MS. having met with the previous approbation of several persons of experience and authority in the Islands, whom he consulted on the leading facts and observations it contained. Far, however, from presuming that he has acquitted himself of so laudable a task, in a manner worthy of the importance of the subject, these particulars are merely mentioned as a proof of his zeal; for, in candour it must be confessed, that a complete picture could not be drawn of a country, so wide and varied, in the reduced form under which the present attempt is now laid before the public.