

iv PREFACE of the TRANSLATOR.

the book hath engaged the attention of all ranks of people in every part of Europe. It is now about eighteen months since the first publication; in which time it hath passed no less than six editions in the original language; the third of which was printed within six months after its first appearance. It hath been translated into French; that translation hath also been several times reprinted, and perhaps no book, on any subject, was ever received with more avidity, more generally read, or more universally applauded.

THE author is the *Marquis BECCARIA*, of *Milan*. Upon considering the nature of the religion and government under which he lives, the reasons for concealing his name are obvious,