

P R E F A C E

TO THE

CURIOUS ANTIQUARIAN READER.

WITHOUT beginning *ab ovo* on a subject so light (a matter of importance, however, to many a modern Catus or Amafinius), by investigating the origin of the Art of Cookery, and the nature of it as practised by the Antediluvians^a; without dilating on the several particulars concerning it afterwards

^a If, according to Petavius and Le Clerc, the world was created in autumn, when the fruits of the earth were both plentiful and in the highest perfection, the first man had little occasion for much culinary knowledge: roasting or boiling the cruder productions, with modes of preserving those which were better ripened, seem to be that was necessary for him in the way of *Cookery*. And even after he was displaced from Paradise, I conceive, as many others do, he is not permitted the use of animal food [Gen. i. 29.]; but that he is indulged to us, by an enlargement of our charter, after the Flood, Gen. ix. 3. But, without wading any further in the argument here, the reader is referred to Gen. ii. 8. seq. iii. 17.