

TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

It is now upwards of seventeen years since this treatise, the only publication in which the celebrated Professor of Freyberg has given any exposition of the principles of his theory, was first presented to the public: yet strange as it may appear, it is no less true, that the doctrine it contains has been almost unknown, at least little studied, in this country, till within these very few years.

It would be no difficult matter to adduce a variety of reasons in explanation of this singular circumstance; but such a detail would be very uninteresting. Nothing perhaps has retarded a knowledge of the valuable observations and discoveries which it contains, more than