

which, according to the plan originally laid down, it will soon become our business to give of Montreal, when we arrive at the description of its various Institutions and public Buildings. It may, indeed, be matter of surprise to some, that during the long period to which we have alluded, no event should have occurred of sufficient importance to merit some historical notice of a more marked character; but when we consider the many disadvantages, to which a country in its infancy is exposed, with regard to matters of real history, it surely will not be deemed presumptive to aver, that the local history of a village, town or city lies under a three-fold disadvantage. The truth is, that the whole of this period was almost exclusively occupied in the settlement of the country—its agricultural improvement—and commercial prosperity: events which, though of the first importance in promoting and securing the *ultimate* prosperity of a country, are nevertheless attended with few of those details which make a figure in history. Notwithstanding, when we come to describe Montreal as a City, we hope it will be found, that little will be left unnoticed which ought to form part of its history, and, consequently, that whatever deficiency may appear in its *general* history, as an integral part of the country, will be amply supplied in its *particular* history, in a local and separate point of view. In the meantime, let us proceed, without further preamble, with the former of those narratives, and, as it was more important to Montreal than any other event which could have happened, endeavour to detail in as concise a manner as we can, the events which led to the War with the United States of America, and a few of those which attended its progress and termination.

From the temper manifested by the President and Congress of the UNITED STATES towards the close of 1811, it was evident that nothing could prevent a war between that country and Great Britain, but either a change in the system pursued by the latter, or a dread in the former to come to the point of actual hostilities, under the prospect of much suffering from abroad, and much division at home. That, however, the American government might calculate upon a support of their measures from public opinion, sufficient to ensure the compliance necessary for their execution, might be inferred from the manner in which the resolutions of the Committee of Foreign relations were received by the House of Representatives, the most popular branch of the Constitution. It appeared at this time, that the Advocates for War, besides the lure of rich prizes to be made by the American privateers, threw out confident expectations of the conquest of Canada. Sometime in January, 1812, a correspondence between Mr. Foster, the English Minister, and Mr. Monroe, the American Secretary of State, was soon after communicated to Congress, with the President's remark upon it, which was in these words: "The continued evidence afforded in this correspondence of the hostile policy of the British government against our national rights, strengthens the considerations recommending and urging the preparation of adequate means for maintaining them. It would be superfluous to give a sketch of the arguments used on each side in this discussion—arguments referring to the beaten topic of the French decrees and English orders in council, and which ultimately proved totally inefficacious to produce conviction on the different par-