

## INTRODUCTION.

That a prophet hath honour save in his own country, is as true as the parent of the proverb was wise. An every day familiarity with persons is apt to lessen our appreciation of them, in so far as that appreciation may have assumed the character of reverence or admiration. And as it is with persons so it is with localities. The residents of a place, as a rule, are seldom the best judges of its excellent points. A too great familiarity with them engenders indifference, and unless they are obtrusively poked under their very nose they are apt to be overlooked.

Impressed with the truth of this, we have ventured the issue of the Directory, in the hope that by grouping together the main features of these Counties we may excite in those who reside in them, not less than in persons abroad, and who may for the first time have learned ought of our characteristics, a due appreciation of the innate value of our resources. Should we succeed in this, our object will have been gained, and our labour be well spent.

We are apt sometimes to depreciate our own position, and look gloomily on the prospect which the future presents. A careful examination of the Tabular Statements, for the information contained in which we are under deep obligations to the County Clerk and the different Township Clerks, will show that while some Counties in the West may have presented a more striking example of sudden prosperity, few have advanced more steadily, while the average of Upper Canadian prosperity has not been so great. That we have advanced as rapidly as, had nature's handiwork been energetically taken advantage of, we might have done, no one can pretend to say. Divided counsels have here as elsewhere often marred our prospects. May we not hope that a better policy will guide our energies in the future, and that the immense resources with which nature has endowed us, may receive that development at our hands which an instinct of selfishness—a strong motive power—should prompt us to give them.

The gentlemen who so kindly assisted us with information will please accept our thanks. To Captain Bubidge, we feel deeply grateful for the use of Parliamentary and other papers, from which we have derived most valuable assistance in compiling the historical part of the work.