

## INTRODUCTION.

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THE following series of articles were first published in the Hamilton Spectator. They were originally issued under the title of "Delving Among Ruins," and dealt more particularly with the history of architectural relics which were the fast disappearing souvenirs of events and incidents in the early history of this district. As the series continued, so much valuable and interesting material came to light that the primary scope of the articles was considerably extended, and eventually resulted in the collection of much general information that may prove useful to the local historian of the future who undertakes to throw his literary searchlight on the dim and distant past. So general was the interest evinced by the public in these literary and artistic gleanings that it was decided to republish them in a more permanent and collected form, with such slight emendations as the exigencies of serial publication rendered necessary.

THE EDITOR.