

INTRODUCTION.

WHEN we launched our tiny bark last year, and called it by the name of the chosen emblem of Canada, we had certainly but little expectation that it would be deemed of sufficient strength or capacity to warrant the bold experiment of shaping its course across the wild Atlantic to our parent isles.

*"For other waves her ribs were fram'd,
For other ports we steer'd."*

The little craft, intended merely for freshwater voyaging, was adapted solely for the navigation of our lakes and rivers, and the highest hopes of success, which its builders cherished for their adventure, were, that the fairy vessel and its light cargo might possibly be welcomed on each annual trip by the borderers on those waters, on which it was designed to float.

In other words, influenced by the expectation, that our readers would be almost exclusively the residents in the province, we prepared our first number wholly with reference to what we conceived might be acceptable to them, and accordingly selected the scenes and subjects of the old world, as likely to be most attractive—offering, as they do, the charms of novelty to some, and awakening the pleasures of memory in others.

On the appearance of the work, however, we found that we were mistaken in our opinions. The circulation of the Annual was not as limited as we had anticipated, and both near and distant friends regretted the absence from the volume of the characteristics of the land of "the Maple Leaf."

We have, therefore, now endeavoured to supply what, we have reason to believe, was generally considered a defect in our first attempt, and have, with this object, drawn from the treasure-house of the fair land of our adoption, the subjects not merely for two of our views, but also for a very considerable portion of the literary contents.