

rary merit, I wish it to be distinctly understood, I make not the slightest pretensions. I am a plain man, unadorned with the graces of erudition, and accustomed to clothe my sentiments only in the simple garb of unaffected sincerity : And had some person of more competent acquirements entered on this task, many hours of diligent inquiry and industrious research, which I have spent in collecting materials, would have been devoted to other more profitable pursuits. But as this has not been the case, I shall perhaps obtain forgiveness for having performed that *indifferently*, which no man has attempted *to perform at all*.\*

If, however, I had not the vanity to imagine, — and perhaps it may be only an *imagination*, — that these volumes contain as much useful in-

\* There have, I am aware, been several works recently published, which give some account of Upper Canada ; but they have been written by Tourists, who have passed hastily through the country, and who have, in common with all rapid travellers, gleaned in their flight a few fragments of information, which, though sometimes correct, are much more frequently manifestly erroneous. Captain Stuart, the only resident writer, in his "Emigrant's Guide to Upper Canada,"—a work which might be much more appropriately entitled *the Pilgrim's Guide to the Celestial Regions*,—has given some honest and valuable information respecting the country ; but it contains such a confused medley of polemical theology, whining cant, and complimentary bombast, that it would require as much patience to travel through his duodecimo volume, as to make a pedestrian tour through the whole of the Upper Province.