

P R E F A C E .

IN a conversation with my friend, the Publisher, on the former and present state of Canada, he suggested the idea of the following work, and requested me to undertake it. I did not then see the possibility of doing so ; but afterwards a temporary cessation of part of my ministerial duties, afforded me an increase of leisure, and enabled me to comply with his wish. Desirous of looking more particularly into the history of my adopted country, the researches I had occasion to make for this purpose were attended with much interest and gratification to me. I marked, as was natural, with more attention than when, at a distance from the spot, I read the accounts as matters of general information, the events and circumstances connected with the discovery, acquisition, and advancement of this important part of the British dominions. But in committing the result to writing, even on the limited scale which the plan of this work allows—rather, perhaps, the more so on account of that limitation,—I found more difficulty than I at first expected. The minor points of the history were in different accounts so discordant, that with my natural aversion to uncertainty, and perhaps a too fastidious desire to reconcile what will not admit of agreement, I was often longer, and more perplexed, in adjusting these