

PREFACE.

IN the present issue of "Reminiscences" an attempt has been made to gather together what some of the oldest inhabitants remember of the early days of Niagara and to cull from early works of travel references to our town. It is extremely to be regretted that so little was committed to paper in those early days or that so few letters or diaries can be found. In the conflagration of Dec. 1813, much valuable material was completely destroyed. It is hoped that some fragments may yet be collected.

The view of the house of Hon. D. W. Smith has been copied by the kind permission of Dr. Bain, of the Toronto Library. The house which was situated in what is now the Court House Square was offered for sale in 1798 for a Grammar School with four acres as an endowment. In 1800 an offer of a reduction in the price was made, but declined; being opposite Fort Niagara and in range of the guns it was in too exposed a position.

The photograph of Hon. Robert Hamilton was furnished by Judge Hamilton from a miniature in the possession of Clarke Hamilton, Esq., of Kingston. That of Andrew Kemp was sent by his grandson, Mr. D. K. Goodfellow, of Beauharnois, Que., and that of Mrs. Whitten by her daughter, Mrs. Follett, of Niagara, to all of whom hearty thanks are rendered.