

rendered the work of printing much more protracted than was expected, or could have been foreseen, but it is believed that the value of the book has been increased rather than diminished, through the corrections and numerous additions permitted by the delay.

In the preparation of this History of his native town, the compiler has endeavored to collect his material from the most reliable sources, and, in nearly every case where practicable, has recorded the facts in the exact language in which they were found, or were received. It has been his endeavor that each and every "quotation" introduced may be safely relied upon as *literally* correct, believing that thereby not only will the reader's interest in no wise be diminished, but the historical value of the work will be greatly increased.

In many instances, particularly during the earlier years of our history, minor incidents and matters are mentioned. This has been done either to illustrate the manners, customs, &c., of the early inhabitants, or for the purpose of introducing the names of persons in town, rather than for any interest or value in the incidents themselves. The frequent introduction of lists of names, has, in many instances, been intended as an aid to those particularly interested in genealogy, rather than as items of interest to the general reader.

In a work like the present, where so much dependence is of necessity placed upon traditions, — often vague and indistinct, or confused and conflicting, — and abounding in names, dates, and figures, it is hardly possible to avoid errors. It is hoped and believed, however, that the following pages will compare favorably in this respect with other similar works; — more or less than this could not well be expected.

As it was impossible to include within the limits of a single volume all that might be classed as local history, or of local interest; and as the general history of the town, for the last half a century, is already comparatively well preserved by the local newspapers, as well as by living memories; less space has been devoted to the latter period than might, perhaps, be considered as its just proportion. A desire to preserve the traditions and incidents fast receding from our sight in the dim twilight