

## TO THE READER.

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THE incompleteness and want of finish, not to advert to the other imperfections which this little work exhibits, require an explanation, at least, if not an apology, from the Author, not for the sake of deprecating the denunciations of the critic, which he cares nothing about, but to prove to an indulgent public, that he is not insensible to the very flattering reception he has already met with at their hands.

To begin at the beginning. It owes its origin to the great and palpable want of plain and practical information, as to the general face and appearance of the country, its climate, soil, and agricultural capabilities and resources ; its internal communications, especially its winter roads with their ancient cahots, now called *reminiscences*, (at one time a great mystery to the Author,) but above all, as to the mode of reducing the mighty forest, into such a state of subserviency to the labours of the husbandman, as to make it "bloom and blossom as the rose," when on every acre, stands a weight of solid timber, amounting to three or four hundred tons,\* which, to the total overthrow of all preconceived opinions about the value of timber, must be *burnt*. In short, as to every thing connected with a settler's life, in the woods of Canada.

To remedy the evils arising from this want of information, was the Author's primary object, and he entered upon the task, with the most sanguine and enthusiastic anticipations of success ; but obstacles and rebuffs, of which he never dreamt, although only such as are naturally incidental to similar undertakings, damped his ardour and prevented the completion of his design, when his labours were thrown aside among his useless papers, during a period of more than seven years, where they would still have remained, to share the fate of their companions, had not Mr. Kemble, of the *Quebec Mercury*, to

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\*What a glorious thing the Lumber Trade must be for clearing land in Canada ! So thought the Author, and so thought the collective wisdom of the nation when they asked an interested evidence, how many acres were annually cleared by it !!

See on this subject—in add note A.