

## P R E F A C E.

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THE increase in population, and the present extent of the City of Montreal, necessarily render the compilation of this Directory a work requiring more labor and greater care than hitherto; while at the same time they add to its value to the citizens, who increasingly need the work for reference, and will assuredly appreciate evidences of greater accuracy.

The present publisher, having undertaken the compilation and issue of the work within a few days only of the time necessary for commencing the canvass for the same, confesses to have in some degree miscalculated the labor necessary for completing such a Directory as he could with confidence and satisfaction submit to the public. For the consequent delay the publisher now tenders an apology; with the feeling nevertheless that his promises of a somewhat earlier issue are to some extent atoned for by the causes which have led to it, viz., the desire to be as correct as possible.

In a city of the present extent of Montreal very many difficulties in compilation are met with. Many persons, from misapprehension or otherwise, absolutely refuse to give any information as to their names; and others, with some inconceivable object, give statements absolutely false.

Care, judgment, and vigilance are required as necessary qualifications in those who go from house to house to obtain the original information, as well as competency in both languages as to the orthography of names; and where, as always is the case, care in selection does not protect from engaging one or two incompetent persons amongst over twenty employed for this purpose, an amount of confusion and trouble is caused which can only be understood by those who have been engaged in such labors, and who are conversant with the amount of error caused by one act of carelessness, and the difficulties in afterwards detecting it.

A want of spelling some names, either French or English, exactly in the proper manner, has led in many cases to the notice by the compiler of the omission of the name in its proper place. Steps having been taken to ascertain the cause,