

PREFACE.

TO THE BUSINESS MEN OF CANADA:—

Though past eighty years of age, and with excuse for indolence in complete loss of sight, I belong to the active class, mercantile and mechanic, whose united energies move the product of the world's industries and make the interchanges; and I think I cannot render a better service to the successors of those with whom I commenced active life two-thirds of a century ago, than by preparing this little book for publication.

The appalling magnitude of evil consequent upon the common use of a now known poison in daily drink, and the earnestness of temperance reformers have during the past twenty years forced observation, investigation, analysis and discoveries upon chemistry and science now spread through a multitude of speeches, reports, essays and volumes, exhibiting as in a mirror the laws of life, and I have endeavoured to compress what Joseph Hume would