

P R E F A C E .

IN laying this, his first essay in this peculiar department, before a considerate, generous and enlightened public, the author is not unconscious of its many shortcomings; but would venture to express a hope that the little work may not be found unacceptable to the business portion of our community, for whom it is principally intended. In the present instance, the author has labored under many unforeseen disadvantages, not the least amongst which may be accounted the difficulties of communication attendant upon the peculiar season of the year, it being late in the autumn when the work was at first projected. Under these circumstances, the amount of information connected with the outports of the Colony may not be of so ample or satisfactory a character as he would have desired, but he has little doubt that the amount of patronage accorded to the *present* effort may be of such a character as to justify a continuance in the future of a work, each succeeding number of which must naturally be expected to prove an improvement upon its predecessor. In conclusion, the author would express his most sincere and heartfelt thanks to his many kind friends for the amount of patronage which they have so liberally and generously accorded him on the present occasion, as also to those who so obligingly furnished him with those portions of valuable information so requisite to the completion of his little book, and whose kind services shall be ever gratefully remembered and appreciated by him.