

INTRODUCTORY.



N presenting this work to the public only a few words need be written to explain its object, or extol the city whose industries it reviews. Devoted to the manufacturing and industrial interests of the fair city of Toronto, it presents in as intelligent and concise a manner as possible an interesting review of the active and representative business houses, while in a desultory manner the early history of the "Queen City of Canada" has been touched upon, as a natural prelude to a work of this kind. It is not, however, as a mere record of the past that this volume is valuable; nay! it is rather as a vivid and life-like revelation of what the manufacturers and merchants of the *present* are doing, and what vistas of a prosperous *future* those efforts hold forth.

The records and statistics of a past age are, to the majority of people, dry, dull and unattractive reading. It is in the ways and doings of the present age that the present generation of commerce feel interested, and it is chiefly to an effort to depict these in a truthful yet unostentatious manner that the efforts of the publishers of this work have been dedicated. The record, therefore, is one not only of the leading manufactures and mercantile pursuits, but of the principal commercial men of the day in the metropolis of the province, noted for their especial worth as great, leading men, making their mark upon the "sands of time," and contributing to the material prosperity of the scenes of their enterprise and the welfare and comfort of the people around them. If there is one feature more than another upon which the Dominion prides itself, it is the ingenuity and successful plodding of those who have distinguished themselves in domestic manufactures and commerce, for these are the workers who have wrought out in great part the weal of this continent, furnishing occupation and a lucrative sphere of industry for thousands and tens of thousands, who, thus employed, have achieved for themselves and their families successes, as well as realized a happier current life, which they could never have won and enjoyed save under the guidance and skill of the more enterprising and far-sighted. The avenues opened by the inventor, the manufacturer and the merchant have been strewn with manifold blessings to all classes of the community; for though the spirit of self-aggrandizement has been the mainspring of their activity and enterprise, these men have proved themselves the real philanthropists of the time, and have borne the standard of progress on to its greatest victories.

The data herein contained has been gathered from the most authentic sources, carefully collated, and judiciously revised, being compiled in separate and distinct forms, while the greatest care has been taken to render the information thus obtained thoroughly reliable and accurate. It will be noticed that, as a rule, all matter in this work not compiled by the Editors is credited to the authority from which it has been taken, or which has furnished it, and we here take opportunity of admitting our obligations in this direction to Mr. Conyngham Crawford Taylor, of Her Majesty's Customs, Mr. G. Mercer Adam, and other authorities of indisputable reliability.

As this work is intended for general circulation, it will undoubtedly become the medium through which the interests of this section will be promoted by establishing more intimate business relations with other parts of the country. To this end it is respectfully requested that those into whose hands it may fall will place it, whenever practicable, in such localities where the best results may emanate from its perusal. In conclusion, the publishers beg to submit the work to the kindly criticism of the public, and at the same time to express the hope that such defects as may be found in it from a literary standpoint may be regarded as compensated for by the usefulness of the information it contains.

THE PUBLISHERS.