

PREFACE.

IN December, 1826, the writer of the following hints embarked from Prince Edward Island for England on business. Having no fellow passenger, and with a view to beguile the stormy hours of a winter passage across the Atlantic, as well as, chiefly, to redeem a beautiful Island from the most unaccountable neglect, he employed himself in sketching a familiar account of the Colony, which he expected, when he left England the following Spring, might have been published. A recent advertisement by the Committee of the Central Agricultural Society induced him to attempt a revision of the rough manuscript; but so great and happy alterations and improvements have generally obtained in this Colony, that it would have been easier, perhaps, to drop the old account, than endeavour to adapt it to the rapid progress the country has made during the short period of six years! This remark will explain why some passages in this little sketch may appear wanting in justice to the present actual state of the Island. In the year 1824, when the writer first arrived in the Colony, scarcely a stack of grain was to be seen throughout the country; now, almost every farmer has a well filled stack-yard. The number of coasting vessels, and the export of agricultural produce have made a corresponding advance. Then, not a travelling wagon (the general carriage of North America) was to be seen; now, they are quite common on the roads, as are gigs, and other vehicles.

For this prosperity the Colonists are mainly indebted to the seven years administration of the late Lieutenant Governor, Colonel Ready, aided by a liberal and enlightened Legislature, whose measures and suggestions for the good of the country ever met his ready support and concurrence. During this period the greater part of the Revenue was applied in making extensive lines of roads and bridges, and other local