

undertaking, and the subsequent continued solicitations of those whose opinions I respect, I have thought it my duty to publish the work.

The volume from the nature of the case cannot be expected to be very interesting to many persons unconnected with the County. Compared with the important transactions of great countries, the contents must, to unconcerned readers,\* appear trivial. There is here no account of great men, or great measures; but simply the common-place records of a young, but growing community, in which there is necessarily much of personal detail, and even that confined to a few whose ability to be publicly useful in one thing usually identified them with many, and to whom, therefore, by consequence, frequent reference had to be made. But I venture to think that, as all things are great or small only by comparison, the details of the affairs of this County however insignificant in themselves, are more interesting and more important to its people than are the details of any other limited part of the world. And as every intelligent people loves to know something of its past history, I shall have been amply repaid to think that some things have been herein preserved, which were fast floating away.

As much accuracy in statement, and moderation in style, is required in such a work, as in a greater. In order to attain these desirable objects, the manuscript was voluntarily submitted to a number of well informed, independent-minded citizens, representing wide Political and Religious divergences of opinion; and their criticism freely invited. They were pleased to testify to the general accuracy and