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P R E F A C E .

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ON presenting the fourth yearly volume of the Montreal Directory, to the Public, the Editor gladly avails himself of the opportunity of returning his thanks to that portion of the community, who, appreciating the value and utility of such a work, have uniformly extended their support towards it. Many of those gentlemen have doubtless a vivid recollection of the loss of time and labor, which was frequently incurred (before the first volume of this work made its appearance,) in ascertaining the whereabouts of parties whom it was desirable to find, and the writer is led to believe that if ALL would only give some degree of consideration to the same fact, the Directory would not languish for want of support, but on the contrary be liberally, and (as a matter of principle) universally sustained; such, however, he is sorry to say, is far from being the real state of the case, which on the contrary presents the (to him) by no means pleasing fact, that some mercantile houses in the City are in the habit of uniformly — borrowing (not buying) the work.

As a matter of justice both to themselves and to him, the Editor would most respectfully solicit the purchasers of the Directory, NEVER TO LEND IT OUT OF THEIR OWN COUNTING HOUSES OR STORES, and more especially not to those who are carrying on business in the City, to whom the answer should invariably be, *that if the Directory is worth using it is worth owning.* Much labor