

PREFACE.

The contents of the following pages, were originally published in the columns of the *Daily Alta California*, where they appeared in a series of articles prepared for that paper. And although they have thus obtained a vast publicity, the writer has been encouraged to think it might serve a useful purpose, to present them in a collected shape, as furnishing in a narrow compass, the information most desired by the general reader, touching the country of which they treat. The proximity of our State to the gold fields of British Columbia, notwithstanding their unhappy experience, naturally attracts the attention of our people that way; and it was with a view to placing before them the most recent and reliable intelligence from that quarter, that the writer engaged in the humble work in question. It was for this, and not because of their literary merit, he has been led to collect these fugitive pieces and present them in their present more pretentious form.