

## TO THE READER.

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As this work is designed to be useful and interesting to readers on both sides of the Atlantic, the author, in compiling it, has endeavoured to present it in such a manner as will meet that end. Whilst it may be correctly supposed that the illustrations given of American and Canadian cities and scenery will be new to readers generally, in Europe, still it is believed, that even in America there are thousands to whom many of such scenes will be new; and that, whilst the articles, entitled "Things as they are in 1859," are more immediately connected with matters with which every resident in America is supposed to be conversant, yet, from the introduction of information having special reference to the same subjects as they exist in Britain—and by a comparison of these as they are in the two countries—it is hoped that American readers will find such articles both interesting and instructive.

In the opinions expressed, or descriptions of "men and things" given, the author does not lay claim to either infallibility, or any great literary merit; but to a sincere desire to present such in an intelligible, unbiassed, and disinterested manner; and where he has happened to err as to any particular facts—or differ from any in the opinions expressed—he claims that such may be attributed to error in information received, and in judgment—than to error of intention, to gratify any personal, or prejudiced preconceived notions.

In attempting to describe and illustrate so vast a territory as this work embraces, it has been found impossible—even with considerable assistance rendered him—for the author to produce original descriptions of every place noticed in time for this edition of the work; consequently, he has availed himself of extracts from some of the most reliable authorities having reference to the districts not yet visited personally by him. Amongst these, he mentions Lippencot's and Hayward's Gazetteers, the *Cosmopolitan Art Journal*, Francis's Guide to New York, and Hunt's Merchants' Magazine, and to a work by Mr. W. P. Smith of Baltimore, on the "Railroad Celebration of 1857," for information pertaining to the States, and "Lovell's Directory" and "Key to Canada," as regards Canada. Any other sources of information are mentioned where extracts from them occur. By this means, the information, given as a whole, is rendered more complete. It is, however, the intention in future editions of this work, to bring the information respecting particular districts down to later dates, from personal observation and experience.