

PREFACE.

points than those who have not employed themselves in similar pursuits would readily imagine. The main facts, however, are sufficiently well attested; and of these I have endeavoured to embody as many as my range would allow in the slight sketch I have given of the introductory history.

In obtaining the Topographical information, many hours were sometimes spent in seeking for that which a few minutes would suffice to put into writing; not from any unwillingness on the part of those who had information to give, but from the very nature of the case. The gentlemen to whom enquiries were directed, are entitled to my own thanks, and those of the Publisher, for the courtesy and readiness with which those enquiries were answered. At first, it was intended to present to each a distinct acknowledgment; but the number has so increased, that it is hoped they will accept this general expression of obligation.

It is natural for every man of ordinary curiosity and discernment, when he comes into a new country, and especially if he mean to reside in it, to desire to know something of its past and present state; and a portion of his time may be lawfully employed in gratifying this desire. The knowledge thus obtained, is capable of being applied to various useful purposes; and more so by the Christian than by any other person. He may often see the finger of God in controlling events, where others discern nothing but the operations of natural causes, or the developements of human agency and design.

N. B.

Montreal, June 1, 1839.