

PREFATORY REMARKS.

Too much of this spirit has been indulged in Canada, to the great injury of our social contentment and public happiness. One of the most formidable obstacles with which the Department of Public Instruction has had to contend, has been the impression and assertion that Canada was too far behind the neighbouring States to adopt such a system; and the arguments to the reverse have often been received with great distrust, and sometimes with absolute incredulity. Mr. LILLIE's Lectures is the first attempt by a general examination and comparison of statistics, to remove the erroneous and injurious impression which has long and extensively prevailed, as to the comparative progress of Canada and the United States. By this inquiry, we think Mr. LILLIE has rendered an important service to his adopted country. We are sure every American will admit the candour and diligence with which Mr. LILLIE has prosecuted his inquiries, while every Canadian must rejoice at the conclusions which these inquiries have established—conclusions which should excite in the mind of every inhabitant of Canada increased respect and love for his country, and prompt him to labour with more confidence and energy than ever for its advancement and prosperity.

The present edition has been most carefully revised and corrected; and some slight additions have been made to it.