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PREFACE.

The publishers of this work experience pleasurable pride in submitting it to the travelling public, especially those whom it may serve to entertain and instruct on board ocean steamers which may have connection with the cities of British Columbia. These cities of commerce deserve to be introduced by every possible means that may be calculated to bring them to extended prominence. Victoria, Vancouver, New Westminster and Nanaimo, are, as will readily be perceived by the reader, the places here referred to.

"Custom that does still appear
An universal influence—
And makes things right or wrong appear,
Just as they do her livery wear."

—Hudibras.

It is meant by the statements or information contained in these pages, to pursue strictly the idea of accuracy—not that founded on passing popularity, but on time honored custom, which shall have an universal influence upon those who may do the publishers the honor to read them. The art of photography, it will be conceded, is not by any means imperfectly developed in the towns which are portrayed by its assistance. The photograph is a conscientious medium, vastly superior to any effort which the wood cut is capable of, with its faults or distortions marring the scene, which would be otherwise beautiful, if only faithfully rendered. A leading object—which has been studiously kept in view by the publishers of this album, is to make its pages pleasing as well as strictly reliable, so that during the sojourn of the tourist or visitor, such association shall be called into existence as will live in their memory, with credit to ourselves, and which shall abide with them pleasantly until they come again, or it may be permanently find a home amongst us. The existing limited knowledge of Western British Columbia will, it is trusted, be widened out in the process of the near future in some degree by these pages.

"Where western gales eternally reside,
And all the seasons lavish all their pride."

No one can dispute the application of these lines to the pictures offered in this album. That they lack the charm of color surrounding the originals on which the seasons truly "lavish all their pride" is a matter for regret, and one which should not have obtruded here had not science been capable of solving the question. With these few remarks we will now introduce the reader to the Cities of British Columbia.