

## P R E F A C E.



The unfortunate individuals who are the principal actors in the events recorded in the ensuing sheets are natives of Ireland. They emigrated from the property called Gartnamoyagh, two miles from Garragh, and ten from Coleraine in the County of Derry, and arrived at Quebec in July 1830. It was intended by the publisher of this Pamphlet to have given an account of the settlement, &c. but the narrative given in the declaration of James Suiter, Senr. is so full and explicit, that such account is entirely obviated. It will be observed that an entirely different aspect is given to the case from that which was given to it by the evidence on the trial, and much sympathy has been excited in the public mind in consequence. Much doubt cannot exist as to the truth of these declarations, as they were written by Father and Son when under the full impression that they were going to suffer the penalty of the law. The reprieve was not made known unto them till about a quarter of an hour before the execution of William Suiter took place. Much discussion on this matter has taken place in the public prints, which cannot be better elucidated than by the following article extracted from Mr. Neilson's Quebec Gazette of 4th April 1834.

"In looking back to the communication signed "Several of your Readers" we perceive that it is insinuated that the Agent of the Seignior of St. Sylvestre (Mr. Wickstead) had given the Suitors a location ticket or deed of land of which Lane had deeds. This is we believe untrue. At any rate the insinuation, without giving any proof, was malicious and base, and it was only because the circumstance escaped us that it found insertion.

We know, however, that there is an opinion prevalent that the Suitors conceived and affirmed that they had a fair claim to the land which Lane was settling upon at the time of the murder; and this might have been explained without reference to any individuals more than must necessarily be the case. The question has an important bearing. Much animosity and frequent collision have occurred in settlements thinly popu-