

P R E F A C E.

THE following Story is given with a view to neutralize the poison of a Libel, in the character of a Report from two Members of the Executive Council of Upper Canada, recorded on the Books of that Board, (Report, 26th January, 1825,) as an Answer to a Message from Lieutenant-Governor Sir Peregrine Maitland, on occasion of Chief Justice P——, at the age of seventy, after thirty-six years' service on the Bench, requesting permission to retire on the Pension.

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The Libel was transmitted to the King's Minister, sanctioned by the Lieutenant-Governor, as worthy of credit, to influence His Majesty's notice of his request. That notice was a gracious permission to retire upon a pension of One thousand Pounds sterling for life, payable out of the Crown funds, as a consideration for Mr. P——'s long and useful services.

As the base Libel remained of record in Upper Canada, Mr. P—— respectfully entreated His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies to command an enquiry to be made into the grounds for the charges of this invidious Libel, or to direct its removal from the Record of the Executive Council; both which were refused on account of *inexpediency*, as he had received all that he had asked—retirement, and the Pension. At the advanced age of seventy-seven, this relation is made to shield his posterity from the infamy which the existence of such a Public Record might inflict upon them; and may excuse, if not justify, the egotism and tendency to self-commendation observable in the STORY OF
A REFUGEE.

W. D. P.