

PREFACE.

A GENERAL EXPECTATION appears justly to prevail that, in the coming season, a redoubled tide of emigration will set in from this country for Canada, the nearest of our great Colonies. The colonists themselves, conscious of the vast strides that Canada has been making, have well nigh astonished us with their earnestness in disseminating information on the subject in the shape of books, maps, and pamphlets, official and non-official, plans of townships, tracks of railways, and particulars of proposals for free grants of land. At length, it would seem, that judging from a speech of the immortal Sam Slick, Judge Halliburton, who is now a member of the British House of Commons, the colonists in their turn were not only almost, but altogether astonished at the want of recognition in this country of recent Canadian progress. In a happy moment, however, they appealed to that lady, who is the pride of British sovereignty, to come and behold for herself the rudiments of that mighty empire, which is rising beneath her sway in British North America. That task, conjoined as in courtesy it should properly be, with a visit to the adjacent States of the American Union. Our gracious Queen, although she could not undertake it in person, deputed to the heir of her Crown and honours the young and modest Prince of Wales. And now, indeed, all eyes are turned upon Canada; and from that Royal visit so auspiciously paid, the Colony may date the occupation of an enlarged space in the sight of all the world. As the Prince proceeded on his way, the varied receptions, from the pomp and circumstance of the public pageant, to the homely greetings of the rough riders on the prairies, and the hearty offerings of the backwoodsman, brought up in succession the shifting scenes of colonial life; whilst the *fetes* in all their splendour; the addresses crowded with imposing facts and representations: the public institutions which were visited; the public ceremonies performed, revealed in turn the germ of immediate prosperity and of future grandeur, and impressed them on the memory in a manner not to be forgotten. The laying of the foundation stone of the Government Buildings at Ottawa, and the closing of the last rivet of the Great Tabular Bridge, in themselves proclaim the importance to which a country that, in a few short years of reanimation has attained so much, that boasts of thirty-three per cent. increase of population since 1852, and numbers already three millions of inhabitants, may and must ere long attain. The attentive observer of its rise and progress is not likely to forget that the earlier the settlement henceforth effected in Canada, the more sure and easy the participation in its advancement. Thus it is not difficult to account for the preparations already making for the short, simple, and inexpensive voyage to this land of promise, the most congenial to our own in its institutions and character.