

PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

IN England, where county annals are highly valued, a writer has said, "Local histories are always welcome, even beyond the districts which they immediately concern. They preserve for us the past."

Since the publication, in 1870, of the first edition of this work, I have received numerous applications for copies, which could not be supplied, and I have been several times advised by friends to publish another edition. I have also had from many of its readers very encouraging words, some of which are the following, from a letter written to me in August, 1889, by one living in a far away Province :

"I remember well the first appearance of your history, at which time I read it with pleasure and much interest, for it gave a good account of our antecédents. I have often wondered how and where you got all the material for its composition. I regard it as one of the most valuable of the collection of books I possess. I am proud of my county, its antiquity, its early pioneers, its present inhabitants, and its advancement in that which pertains to perfect civilization."

I have revisited many districts, conversed with the oldest people, perused additional historical documents, and no pains have been spared in the endeavor to make the book a complete county record.

MATHER B. DESBRISAY.

BRIDGEWATER, *October*, 1895.