

CHAPTER II.

THE FATHER OF THE COMPANY.

"Who or what on earth that is good for anything is not assailed by ignorance, stupidity or malice."

GALT was in no hurry to come to Canada, the scene of so many of his subsequent trials and mortifications; and he fain would have postponed his departure, the preliminary business having sadly interfered with his efforts at composition.* In 1823, tired of his roving life and anxious as to the education of his three sons, he settled at Eskgrove, near Musselburgh. But scarcely had he taken root there when, through the Chancellor of the Exchequer, he was led to take charge of an enquiry into the state of Upper Canada's resources, out of which enquiry the Canada Company grew. To Mr. Galt, solely, it owed its origin, and on its formation he was appointed Secretary. Of the five Commissioners sent out he was the only one who assumed the responsibility of the upper provinces; and although his duties were performed faithfully, his troubles then began. That they never ceased we know.

* Among Galt's numerous works are: "Battle of Largs," "Life of Benjamin West," "Historical Pictures," "The Wandering Jew," "The Earthquake," "Letters from the Levant," "Commercial Travels," "Ayrshire Legatees," "Annals of the Parish," "The Provost," "The Steamboat," "Sir Andrew Wylie," "The Entail," "Last of the Laids," "Chronicle of Dalmailing," "Ringan Gilhaize," "The Spaewife," "Rothelan," "Lawrie Todd," "Southennan," "Life of Byron," "Lives of the Players," "Bogle Corbet, or The Emigrants," "The Majolo," "Stanley Buxton," "Eben Erskine," "The Stolen Child," "The Ouranologos," "Autobiography," "Stories of the Study," "Literary Miscellanies," etc., etc.