

PREFACE.

IN this enlightened age, when the daily newspaper and telegraph have revolutionized the world, the writer who attempts to pen a history of a country, city or community is appalled by the undertaking. He finds that the press has already placed before his probable readers all the accessible facts from which his publication must be compiled. His readers, stimulated by the wonderful advances that the ingenuity of man has brought under his command, have not only become seekers after information, but in a like degree been raised to thinkers—measuring intelligently and carefully every literary effort that is placed before them—accepting some with pleasure and rejecting others with equal grace.

The object of this work is to make a true and concise epitome of the settlement, growth and present condition of the Maritime Provinces, together with representations of the various manufactures and industries to which and from which the people of this section owe and derive their prosperity.

The steadily increasing population of the old country, and the fields of industry and enterprise which in so many branches of trade, owing to improved labor-saving machinery and the importations of other countries, have become so restricted, cause vast numbers to look to the colonies of Great Britain for that field of labor which is practically denied them at home, or is so crowded and circumscribed as to prevent the development and exercise of that native talent or energy, which, if properly used, should in the course of time lead to a competency and independence. The employment of capital not less than the employment of labor, the relief of distressed trades of over-peopled districts of individuals and their families struggling vainly without hope, and of overflowing manufactures seeking a market and a beneficial return—are all connected with the subject of emigration and with the effects that grow out of it in a new country. It is not, therefore, to be wondered at that the public should not be easily satisfied in their inquiries upon a subject which in times like the present come home to the business and bosoms of a large and enterprising class of individuals. As the interest of the subject rises above those classes by whom it has hitherto been looked upon merely as an ultimate relief from pressing distress, and extends to persons in better circumstances, who begin to inquire into the state, prospects and industries of these new countries which open such a field for energy and enterprise, a species of information comes to be required more particular and authentic than the hasty opinions of publishing travellers or the brief reports of settlers in the woods.

It is to be feared that the most erroneous notions are entertained in Europe and other parts as to the soil, resources and climate of the Maritime Provinces. To provide rightful information in these respects, and to show the grand availabilities of this location for the establishment of manufacturing industries, as well as to bring before the world the many very superior establishments already in existence, is the object of this work.