

PREFACE.

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IN attempting to delineate the occurrences that form the subject of the following pages, some inaccuracies will probably arise. The suddenness of the calamity at Miramichi prevented that cool and collected observation of facts, so desirable to form the ground-work of a correct narration. In addition, the present work has been rather hastily prepared, under the impression, that by conveying a complete account of the losses and sufferings of this unhappy settlement, an increased feeling may be excited to aid the survivors. One of the unhappy sufferers has furnished the author with the details of the destruction, of which he was an eye-witness; and, through the loss of property, a victim: and the description throughout has been drawn from the best sources of information that could be obtained at Miramichi, and at Halifax, whither many of the unfortunate people have resorted.

The fires that have raged on other parts of this continent about the same period having apparently originated from causes similar to those which produced this most destructive conflagration, it has been thought proper to add such notices of them as could be obtained in time. A short account of the previous settlements on the River is also appended; and in conclusion, the reader will find a notice of the measures taken in the cities and settlements of New-Brunswick, Nova-Scotia and Canada, and in the United States, to afford assistance to their distressed brethren.