

P R E F A C E.

THE labour and expense attendant upon the preparation of a work professing to be a Directory of Canada were of so serious a nature that the Publisher shrank from assuming the responsibility until he had inquired whether there were not many besides himself who, having experienced the want which he had felt, would assist him to produce a remedy for an admitted evil.

With a view to arrive at the general sentiment on the subject, and also to discover the amount of positive encouragement that such a work would receive, a Prospectus of "THE CANADA DIRECTORY" was published, and very generally distributed throughout the Cities and Towns of Canada. The answers which he received to these circulars were of a character so encouraging and complimentary, as to induce the Publisher to take immediate steps to accomplish the end which he had proposed to himself, and inaugurate a work which should prove alike useful to the Province and creditable to the Press.

Of the way in which the duty has been discharged it does not become the Publisher to speak. He may however be permitted to say that neither pains nor expense have been spared to render the work accurate and complete; and also that, in regard to the style and manner of its execution, "The Canada Directory" will compare most favorably with publications of a kindred character which have received the approval of older countries.

It may be remarked that the title of the book conveys but an inadequate impression of the information which will be found in its pages. It is commonly supposed that a Directory is but an index to the places of business or private residences of the individuals whose names it records. The reader, however, will at once discover, upon referring to the General and Miscellaneous Index, that the work before him contains a much larger fund of useful matter than its name imports. It is no exaggeration to say, that it is a Directory for the man of business and a Guide-Book for the man of pleasure, an Index for the immigrant and an Instructor for the settler, a Gazetteer for the student and an Army-List for the militia officer, while for the statesman and others connected with official life it is a Statistical Chronicle of the progress of the country in all departments of enterprise.

It will thus be seen that the Canada Directory occupies a large space in the field of local information. In its projection it was designed to meet popular favor; in its prosecution this desirable end has been kept steadily in view. And now, believing that he has performed his part, the Publisher trusts that he may not look in vain for the support of an enlightened public.

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