

ON THE
EARLY GAZETTEER AND MAP LITERATURE
OF WESTERN CANADA.

BY HENRY SCADDING, D D.

All books consisting of descriptions and statistics of new countries become, as a matter of course, speedily obsolete, and are superseded by others which in their turn have to give place to fresh essays of the same class. Even in old countries, in these days, the changes constantly going on are so many, as to require the issue periodically of new accounts. Thus we have a Murray, a Black, a Bradshaw, a Baedeker, putting forth year after year, not merely new editions of their "guides," but those "guides" reconstructed throughout, curtailed here, expanded there, so as to be in accordance with the real situation of affairs. But volumes having reference to the growing colonies of Great Britain, become superannuated in a particularly short space of time, so very rapid is the progress made therein; and in such quick succession come the changes. After all, however, although a person who is seeking for the latest information in regard to a new country, desires, and must have, the latest book on the subject, yet, let only a sufficient number of years pass away, and the books which from time to time had become obsolete, again recover a value, and are gladly resorted to for purposes of comparison or for the verification of partially forgotten facts. To each generation the actual state of things must be that which chiefly absorbs the attention. But society amongst us has been all along in a state of flux; and each person, though still of necessity kept busy by the calls of the moment, cannot help looking back to particular stages of the past with a peculiar interest: to the era, for example, when he himself was first called to take part in the serious battle of life, and to his surroundings then; or it may be, his regards are turned to one remove further—to the time when a father, perhaps, or grandfather