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## INTRODUCTION.

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Is the timid and anxious hope that this work may meet with a favorable reception, and that public indulgence may extend to the defects of a first essay, we take the liberty to premise a few remarks explanatory of the feelings which inspired the design, and of the basis on which rest our expectations for encouragement.

Deeply interested in the honour of our country, and conscious of her claims to a great degree of intelligence, our pride has been often and severely wounded by the sarcastic remarks of uninformed strangers, on our defective education, our slight acquaintance with literature—the total want of taste and spirit evinced in our Cities, and to render those galling reproaches unanswerable, they cite a fact—that in the Canadas there is not a single Literary Journal, whilst the neighbouring states abound with Periodical Publications, devoted to the general diffusion of knowledge—although we must admit the fact, we deny the inference—it is not from a deficiency of taste or of talent, that local Literature is not duly encouraged; but from a cause perhaps as culpable though not so humiliating, to a supineness, which render the reading community content, whilst strangers administer to their demands for information, regardless of all their own Country suffers by this ready given preference to the industry and activity of Foreigners, for we cannot cede to them a higher degree of superiority. The extraordinary facility with which American Works