

PREFACE.

THE first Volume of THE CANADIAN MAGAZINE having been completed, we deem it a fit opportunity for discharging a debt of gratitude which we owe to its readers, and offering them our hearty and unfeigned thanks for having—no less by their kind indulgence to tender and unripened abilities, than by their liberal patronage in behalf of a work whose merits, at this early period of its progress, it is impossible to estimate—enabled us to bring our labours to an extent alike satisfactory to our feelings, and to the confidence so unhesitatingly reposed in us by that portion of the public who have condescended to become our supporters. We sincerely trust, that, by continuing to perform our duty on the same principles of devotion to all that tends to improve the mind, and develope the moral and physical history of this vast colony, which has hitherto characterised our *object*, if not our labours, we shall be enabled, still farther, to secure the approving as well as supporting suffrages of our readers; and that time, if it do not altogether cancel our want of sufficient talent to conduct a work of such importance and magnitude as the present, will, at least, furnish us with ample experience for fulfilling, in a reputable manner, the duty which we owe to ourselves, and the obligation which such generous confidence on the part of the public, has imposed upon us.

EVERY reader of observation must be conscious, that such a work as this, if conducted on those principles of candour and neutrality which so peculiarly belong to History and polite Literature, must be attended with the best and most important consequences in promoting, no less the internal improvement, than the general interests of these Provinces—the only British CONTINENTAL Colony in the Western hemisphere, which has yet made any progress in settlement and cultivation. We trust, therefore, that such persons as claim a stake in the welfare of Society—in its education—morals—and general improvement—will feel the propriety, if not the absolute necessity, of a call upon their INTELLECTUAL suffrages in support of the only publication in the country worthy of being characterised as an archieve for giving permanency to literary and scientific pursuits. In saying so much in behalf of the present undertaking, far be it from us to derogate, in the slightest degree, from the other periodical publications of the country, for many of which we entertain the highest respect, and from many of whose conductors we have experienced throughout