

INTRODUCTORY.

J. H. WINN, Esq., *President,*

And the COUNCIL of the Board of Trade,

AND

IRA GOULD, Esq., *President,*

And the COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT of the Corn Exchange

Association :—

GENTLEMEN,

I respectfully request your attention to the accompanying Report for the year 1868. In explanation of the delay which has occurred in presenting it, I have to state that it was principally owing to an unexpectedly protracted absence from the City, after about fifty pages had passed through the press. In commencing to arrange matter for publication the progress made seemed to warrant the expectation, that the Report would be issued earlier than those of previous years; but unavoidable loss of time in verifying statements, added to the chief cause of delay above-mentioned, has laid upon me the necessity of offering an apology for this short-coming.

It is proper to mention, that some time since it was thought a list of Flour-Mills, Millers, &c., in the Dominion would be of some service to the Trade; and a circular was issued for the purpose of procuring the requisite information. Representations adverse to the proposal were subsequently made in this City, Toronto, and elsewhere,—based upon a misapprehension of what was intended by its compilation; I complied the more readily with these expressions of opinion, however, sufficient information not having been received to make the contemplated statement complete, particulars of only 220 mills having come to hand. The non-appearance of the list in the present Report, renders this explanation necessary to those gentlemen throughout Canada who so kindly responded to my inquiries.

In course of preparing that portion of this publication which refers to Montreal, it occurred to me to gather into one section some particulars, many of which would otherwise have been scattered here and there. They now appear in the first part of the Preliminary Reports. On looking at the sheet, as printed off, I fear the caption, "The City and Port of Montreal," will strike the critical reader as too pretentious to be placed over a few paragraphs, not exactly "at random strung," yet certainly disconnected, and very far from being exhaustive. But, if they stimulate any one to effort in that direction, or afford information to people