

## PREFACE.

The author of these pages, having resided a long time in Canada, has been led to view many of its civil Institutions, as being not quite so well calculated to promote the welfare and convenience of the population as they might have been: and though he does not consider himself so well qualified to suggest improvements as many others, yet he hopes that he may be able, in the following inquiry, to convince his readers that some very beneficial improvements are practicable, and ought to be made. He has always had a reluctance to obtrude his sentiments on the public, and, on that account, has hitherto waited, in hopes that the Legislature would have taken up some of the causes of his complaint; now, when inasmuch as representatives have been chosen and sent from the Eastern Townships, under an act passed in the last session of the Provincial Parliament, and as the subjects of his inquiry have many of them an exclusive application to the condition of the Townships, the present, if ever, appears to the author a proper time for offering his opinions. The author, in justice to himself, does not presume to imagine that his sentiments have the merit of being either new or extraordinary, or that they contain any special ingredients to recommend them, except their present application to the circumstances of the country, and even of this he is not sure of the concurrence of public opinion.

He would further remark that he never had the ambition of becoming a scribbler, nor a mark for malignant criticism to vent its spleen. And should he be so unfortunate as to incur the displeasure of those who delight to dip their pens in gall, for the purpose of wounding the feelings of an author, he will most assuredly disappoint them of their reward, as he is perfectly satisfied with the correctness of his own motives, and will not be disappointed should his sentiments not meet with general approbation. Being *incognito*, the public cannot accuse him of writing for applause, nor of mercenary views, as he is not vain enough to look for any profit from his production. If his pamphlet therefore does not produce any practical benefit to his fellow subjects, his sole object will have been lost, as well as the few scattered portions of time, which the author has snatched from the avocations of a busy life, to put his thoughts in this shape, and the reader will lose the time spent in perusing them, which he flatters himself may be allowed to strike an even balance between them. Should any one be inquisitive to learn who has thus ventured to publish his observations on subjects that are confessedly very important, the author would beg leave to remark that it is little of consequence in his estimation whether he be thought a D. D., LL. D., or an obscure individual; as the sentiments and reasoning speak for themselves, and must be of equal weight, from whatever source they may have been derived.