

PREFACE.

In presenting their Sixth Annual Edition of the City of Hamilton and County of Wentworth Directory, the Publishers return their acknowledgments for the kind patronage so liberally awarded.

In a compilation of this kind it is evident that errors cannot be avoided, and we respectfully submit the following, which will explain some of the reasons why:—

In the course of our canvass we experienced very great difficulty from the fact that many persons flatly refused to give their names at all, being under the impression that a Directory must in some way be connected with the imposition of taxes; others, again, fearing that the publishing of their names would lead to the infliction of Statute labor; and many, (and where, to judge from appearances, such a thing was least to be expected,) would substitute feigned for their real patronymics, being in wholesome dread of discovery by long suffering! creditors.

Another great obstacle to the correct *orthography* of names is the similarity of sound of those which are spelled in a widely different manner; as, for instance, Elliott, Elliot, Eliott, Eliot; Dixon and Dickson, Kavanagh and Cavanagh; Stewart and Stuart, (and in our good city of Hamilton the royal form appears excessively popular,) and the not altogether uncommon name of Smith, which has been given to us as Smyth, Snythe and even Smythe! and the highly respectable name of Irwin has actually been disguised as Erwin.

Another difficulty we experience among our Celtic friends. Such names as Brien, Toole, Shaughnessy, Reilly, are given to us as such; yet these names are really O'Brien, O'Toole, and so on. Keating is pronounced Kating, and O'Mally as Malia. Yet another obstacle was presented by the *Macs*, e.g. McPherson, Macpherson; McIntosh, Macintosh; McCallum, Macallum; McLeod, Macleod; McLellan, McLelland and Maclellan; McGee and Magee; McGann, Magann, etc., etc., all pronounced similarly, yet the fortunate possessor of the diverse orthography, declaring himself right, and consequently his namesake entirely wrong.

We consider it our duty to warn our friends against unprincipled characters representing themselves as agents. Two or three years ago, two of this class collected considerable sums in pre-payment of an advertising card, which was to be distributed broad cast. It was, however, discovered that the promised hundreds of these cards were reduced to units, and the result was that the enterprising publishers endured the privacy of a two years' incarceration in the Central Prison. Last summer, again, another of the tribe obtained large amounts in various parts of the province, in pre-payment of cards of advertisements in a Provincial, County or City Directory, as it suited his views to represent the matter. Many credulous persons in this city were victimized; so we would say, pay no agent in advance: ours are strictly prohibited from receiving anything beforehand. Another scheme is very popular—that of promising a large gratuitous distribution of the work. This plan would, if carried out, entail a loss to the distributor far in excess of his profits, and the pledge has never been to our knowledge fulfilled. This style of imposing on the public is, from its frequency, becoming almost too transparent; but there is a class of good-natured people who appear to be unable to resist any plausible appeal to their credulity. A long experience warrants us in advising all concerned to look with suspicion on any party promising more than legitimate business would justify, and if the public will insist, before payment, upon proof of the fulfillment of all conditions, this method of "business" will become obsolete.

As residents and ratepayers of this city, we have an interest in the compilation of our work, and whilst pledging ourselves to use every exertion in our power, we respectfully solicit a continuance of that patronage which for the last six years has been so liberally bestowed on us.

In conclusion we would say that every house in the city has been visited by our agents, and every means at our disposal used to secure accuracy and completeness. For the errors which the work may be found to contain, we respectfully solicit a lenient criticism.

W. H. IRWIN & CO.