

P R E F A C E .

In December last, the President and Directors of the *Saint John Mechanics' Institute* proposed two prizes of Fifteen Guineas and Ten Guineas, respectively, for the best Essays upon the subject :

" New Brunswick as a Home for Emigrants : with the best means of promoting Immigration, and developing the resources of the Province."

The Essays were to be delivered on or before the first day of March last ; and no less than eighteen were sent in as competitors for the prizes.

It was determined that a committee of three gentlemen, unconnected with the management of the Institute, should be appointed to act as examiners of these Essays, and judges of their merits. William Wright, Esq., LL. D., Advocate General, the Hon. John W. Weldon, and the Rev. William Scovil, A. M., accepted the Board's invitation to act as such Committee. On the 19th April they submitted their report, in which they speak in flattering terms of all the Essays, and recommend that three of them, besides the two to which they had awarded the prizes, should be published. The following is one of the Essays recommended for publication.

Being convinced of the necessity of diffusing as widely as possible the valuable information contained in these Essays, the Directors of the Institute communicated with the Provincial Government upon the subject of their publication and distribution throughout the Provinces and in the United Kingdom. In the most liberal manner, the Government assumed the cost of printing several