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PREFACE.

THE design of this volume is to give an account of the most important and interesting events relating to the history of the State of New York, from its settlement to the present time, with geographical descriptions, illustrated by numerous engravings. In preparing the first edition of this work, the author was assisted by Mr. Henry Howe, the author of the Historical Collections of Virginia and Ohio.

The first edition of this work was published ten years since. Several editions have been issued since that period; the most recent was by Messrs. H. & E. Phinney, of Cooperstown, in 1846. This was a condensed work from previous editions, and left out much dry detail, which could be found in several other works published in the State. The present edition is a reprint from the last, with the addition of valuable matter, and statistical information brought down to the present time.

In collecting the materials and preparing them for publication, and in making the drawings for the engravings, each of the compilers of the original work spent more than a year of close and laborious application. They visited every part of the state, and besides travelling thousands of miles in the public conveyances, journeyed many hundreds on foot.

Although conscious of having used every effort which could be reasonably expected, in order to have the work accurate in every respect, yet experience has taught us not to claim an entire exemption from those imperfections ever attendant on works of this kind. Travellers, in giving accounts of foreign countries, their history, &c., may make statements at random, which may pass for truth when there is no one at hand able to correct their errors. This volume will come before many persons, who, on some subjects introduced, have better means of information than the compilers of the original work. A certain writer defines history to be merely "an approximation towards truth." Although this humiliating statement will not be allowed to its full extent, yet, when the imperfection of every thing human is considered, it must be confessed to have some foundation in truth.

In the prosecution of this work, the compiler has availed himself of the labors of those who have preceded him. The historian of necessi-

year 1851,

Connecticut.

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