



INTRODUCTION.

THE following letters are reprinted from the columns of the *Swindon Advertiser* newspaper, where they appeared at weekly intervals during the year 1874. And they are practically what they profess to be—"Letters sent Home"—during a visit to Canada and America in the summer of the previous year. The letters describe a journey which occupied exactly two months from the departure to the return home. To claim, under such circumstances, to be an authority on Canadian or American matters, would be sheer madness on the part of the writer. It has not been, therefore, with the view of setting up any such claim that these letters have been republished. Their object has simply been to place in a chatty kind of way the notes and experiences of one desirous of turning his capacity for seeing to a profitable account, in the first place before his own family, then before the readers of his newspaper (the letters having in the meantime received such additions of statistical and other details as would only have encumbered them in their original form), and now in their collected form before that larger class denominated the public.

Whilst, however, the writer sets up no claim to be