

localities of collecting authentic information. The latter difficulty is caused not so much by the unwillingness of parties to give what information they possess as from apathy on the subject; and I have found the most trouble in gaining information from those places that were lagging in the back ground—the inhabitants appearing to view me as one who had come “to spy the nakedness of the land;” and being unwilling to have themselves and their neighbourhoods dragged before the public. And in all such instances there appeared to be a great want of spirit and enterprise amongst them. In all those places, on the contrary, where the inhabitants were industrious, enterprising, and desirous of seeing their particular locality prosper, I have had no difficulty in arriving at any information I required. From those government and district officers, to whom I have found it necessary, in the course of my inquiries, to apply for information, I have invariably received all the assistance in their power, (with two or three exceptions only; one of these refused me the information I required, on the ground that “he was not *obliged* to give information to every one who asked for it.” On mentioning his conduct to some of his townsmen, the reply I received was, “you should have shown him a shilling, and he would have given you the information fast enough.” Another had the conscience to refuse me a list of the qualified magistrates in his district, unless I paid him a quarter of a dollar for each name! (153 in number); and I was consequently obliged to procure the list from the Secretary’s Office, at Montreal,) and I take this opportunity of returning to them my best thanks for their kindness and courtesy.

In collecting together such a mass of information, extending over so great a surface of country, (and which information it was also necessary to condense as much as possible), it is not unlikely that some few inaccuracies may have crept in; but I believe the work will be generally allowed to be as correct as it was possible for a work of the kind to be made. Some two or three places of small consequence have been necessarily omitted, as Merriekville, on the Rideau Canal, which I passed through in the night; and Bath, on the St. Lawrence, which, on account of the badness of the weather, I was unable to visit. I wrote to the postmaster of the latter place, (as the most public man in a village), requesting him to favour me with the statistics of the village; but he had not the politeness to answer my letter.

In the prosecution of my object, I have spared neither trouble, expense, nor personal fatigue; and, in the course of my travels, I have walked over more than three thousand miles of ground, through both the heats of summer and the snows of winter; and having completed my labours, like a mariner starting on a voyage of discovery, I launch my bark upon the waters, trusting to the winds and waves of public opinion to waft it safely into port,—(put the profits into his pocket, he means.—PRINT. DEV.),—with the confident expectation that my exertions to make the Province better known and appreciated, will be supported as they should be, by all who must necessarily, directly or indirectly, benefit by my researches.

THE AUTHOR.

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