

## INTRODUCTION.

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There is no desire on the part of any of the settlers in Algoma who have contributed to the contents of this little work to "boom" Algoma; there is no wish on the part of anyone to paint the country in too glowing colors. There is no wish to lead anyone to think the country is a paradise—or to hide its drawbacks or disadvantages. Every country has some disadvantages. It is not denied that Algoma is a rough looking country, a mountainous looking country, a country made up largely of hills and valleys.

And it is this rough appearance which has given Algoma a bad name, so to speak—which has kept back its settlement in the past. People who passed along the great lakes, sailing from the lower lake ports to Lake Superior, and who viewed its rock-bound coast from the deck of a steamer, said it was a rocky country, "nothing but rock;" and people who travelled on the railroad along the main line of the C.P.R. said the same; and when and wherever the word "Algoma" was mentioned people associated it with the idea of a rocky, sterile country, in which successful agriculture was a physical impossibility. And this mistaken idea still to a great extent prevails.

And the only object the compiler has in sending forth this little work is to try and get people to come up here and investigate—look for themselves—and people who have so inquired have always found that the worst thing about Algoma (the only drawback or disadvantage it has, some people say) is its rough appearance.

They have found that instead of the country being all rock, it is a succession of rich alluvial valleys—valleys through which many rivers, creeks and streams, large and small, flow down from the great North Land to the great Lakes and the River St. Mary. They have found out that the rocky ridges or "bluffs" (as they are called in Algoma), are in themselves a blessing, because they serve as a natural wind-break, and furthermore that, as a rule, these very ridges are covered with timber;