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UNITED COUNTIES OF NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM.

In referring to these Counties, it is our purpose to offer a brief historical and descriptive summary of each of the several minor Municipalities which form its component parts, having regard to conciseness without prolixity, so far as the space at our command will permit. That the briefest outline is all which, under the circumstances, can be accomplished, is but a conceded fact; for were anything like a full "history" of this most important section of the country attempted it would require volumes of no mean proportions—to do justice to which would consume months, if not years, of time.

Our object in the present instance has been more to embrace within a limited compass a number of facts bearing upon the early settlement and subsequent development of the territory, and though necessarily very much more condensed than the importance of the subject would demand—except as an adjunct to a work of this particular description—yet, to ensure accuracy in all matters with which we have essayed to deal, much time and labor have been expended in the collection of all available data bearing upon the work in view—our researches extending through all available public documents, numberless private memoranda, and all publications bearing upon special, general or particular interests; and though the originals have, in most instances, long since performed their allotted tasks among their fellows, yet we have been able in other cases to converse with some whose lives the ravages of time have spared, and who have cheerfully contributed their experience, embracing every phase of life, from the most commonplace realities to the borders of romance, through the various stages of which they have passed, from the sternest necessities, severest privations, and most cruel hardships, to a condition of comfort and affluence—the *otium cum dignitate* of the Latin bard—which lives of perseverance and industry have earned.

Without effort or pretensions to literary merit, the design of the writer has been to present a plain statement of facts which, bearing upon the growth and development of the territory, will form a basis for future comparisons, and offer to the rising generation an incentive to emulation in the examples of the pioneers, whose self-reliant industry and progressive enterprise have conquered the primeval forests and left in their stead, as a heritage to posterity, a country teeming with substantial comforts and material wealth, and reflecting in its every feature the indomitable spirit and true manliness of a noble race, whose lives and deeds will shine while the communities they have formed shall continue to exist.

Aside from the special attributes pertaining to the various indi-