

notwithstanding the pains which have been taken to secure absolute correctness. At the same time my persuasion is, that no mistake will be discovered interfering in any measure with the reliableness of the general views presented. Those who have given the subject fair attention, or who may be disposed to put themselves to the trouble of examining the authorities as they will perceive that facts are under rather than overstated.

In forwarding the Essay to Quebec, I mentioned that I had some fear, being uncertain as to the wishes of the Executive Committee on the point, that I might have gone somewhat too largely into the subject of Geology in connection with the Local Descriptions; adding, that the matter in question was easily separable, and that had time permitted it had been my intention to inclose in brackets certain portions which might, if thought well, be omitted. Unwilling to tax too much the patience of the general reader with what is technical, I have excluded a few of the passages referred to. Should any be of opinion that too much of this description is still retained, I beg to remind them that the Geological character of the country is one of the elements which specially contribute to make it such a comfortable home, and such an advantageous field of enterprise for its inhabitants, and to call attention to the fact that the regions most largely dwelt on—those, to wit, of Lakes Superior and Huron—may be said almost to form countries of themselves, and are besides comparatively little known.

Some few additions which have been made, have been placed in square brackets, by which they may be easily distinguished.