
TO THE PUBLIC.

OF the favourable disposition of the Public to receive such a work as that now offered to them, we had early proof, in the number of subscriptions which appeared soon after the proposals were issued. And if any thing could have added to the zeal with which we wished to promote a scheme, in our judgment, of such general utility, it would have been this disposition of the public mind, which seemed at once to justify the plan we had formed and to promise it success. Should we be equally fortunate in the execution of the plan, our most sanguine hopes will be fully gratified.

Considering the early encouragement which was given to the undertaking of the work, we ought perhaps to apologize for the late appearance of this Number. It was indeed, at first intended, that the publication should have begun in the month of July, at the farthest, so as to have included six months of the current year; but the late arrival of the Types, which were commissioned on purpose for it, hath unavoidably retarded it till the present time.

Some apology may also be deemed necessary for inserting in the "Provincial Register," for this Month the Proclamation for dividing the Province, together with the Names and boundaries of the Counties, &c; which are already so generally known; but as in our subsequent Numbers, we mean to give a summary of Provincial Affairs, both for Upper and Lower Canada, we thought our readers would not be displeased to find that Summary commence from the time the late act began to operate.

Concerning the first and principal part of the work we shall say little. The Public will judge of its merit, and we submit to their judgment. It is intended to be partly a compilation and partly composed of original Essays. In forming the compilation our principal object will be to select such pieces as we judge best adapted to afford an innocent entertainment—to enlighten the public mind—to communicate useful instruction, or to create a taste for letters. The original essays will also be judged of by the same rule, and either admitted or rejected, according as they appear to possess those qualifications, or to be destitute of them.

Upon the whole, we think that few periods of History have ever appeared more favourable or inviting to an undertaking of this kind than the present time—more fertile in subjects fit for the animadversion of the Statesman or Philosopher—or more productive of incidents worthy of being recorded. By the Spirit of Enquiry (which in no age was ever more awake) new discoveries in History and antiquities, and improvements in Philosophy, are to be expected almost