



## PREFACE.

The Western Counties Annual and Almanac for 1887 is now offered to the public. It will be seen at a glance that it is a decided improvement upon, and a much larger and more substantial work than, the Old Kent County Annual which it purports to supersede.

It is hoped that at least beyond captious criticism the new venture will meet with general approval. At all events if it does not it will not be because of a paucity of matter, nor because of stinted labor in the endeavor to give not only to the purchaser but to the advertiser material value. We are bound, if not now able, to ultimately make the work the acknowledged Official Annual and Almanac of the District. And we here take the opportunity of saying that our next issue will be as far in advance of the present work as this work is of the Kent County Annual—new matter, new illustrations, better make-up, finer paper and press work to be a special desideratum.

Whilst official data has been chiefly used in the compilation and although the work will be found substantially correct, absolute immunity from error is nevertheless not expected when the minuteness of detail, changes occurring in course of, and typographical slips incidental to, publication, are considered; and we shall feel obliged if officials and others will report any change, omission or inaccuracy.

A noticeable feature of the work will be the reputable Professional and other lists. Perhaps, in no similar work are found so prominent and exceptional a list of advertisers generally. Our motive in accomplishing this desirable result is obvious; and we trust the public will appreciate it by bestowing their patronage upon so worthy a lot.

We thank the many official and other gentlemen who have so kindly furnished us with official returns and information without which the compilation would have been more difficult and arduous. All, with a bare exception or two, readily gave us every assistance.

Attention is called to the prospectus of our Historical Gazetteer which is noticed on the last page (152) of this work.

Yours respectfully,

JAMES SOUTAR,

Chatham.

**TO PRINTERS AND OTHERS.**—The cuts in this work and in previous issues of the Kent County Annual are for sale. Many of these are fine art-plates and if careful make-up is given them and used with finer ink and paper than what has unfortunately been used in this book they will come out very clear and full in outline.

The months Illus  
Birdie feeding h  
Christmas present  
No Admittance—  
Water Lillies . .  
Waiting to be ash  
“Our Lizzie” . .

January—“Air  
February—“Sno  
March—“A Big  
April—“Ploughin  
May—“A River  
June—“Laying”

Agricultural Stati  
Agricultural Soci  
American Express  
Army and Navy  
Armies and Navie  
Bishoprics of Gre  
British Cardinals  
British Empire—  
British Foreign M  
British Land Ow  
British Vessels an  
British Foreign T  
British Debt and  
Canada's Inland  
Canadian Canals  
Catholic Mutual  
Chartered Banks  
Chief Justices (J  
Chief Orders of  
Church Dignitari  
Clergy of the Di  
Collegiate and F  
“Consummation  
Consuls of Forei  
County Councils  
County Officials  
Customs Depart  
Customs—Collec  
Distance Table—  
Distance Table—  
Division Courts,  
Division Court S  
Debt of Great B  
Dominion of Can  
Electoral Divisi  
Fire Brigades an  
Fishery Oversee  
Foreign Trade o  
Foresters—Order  
Gas Inspectors.  
Governors of Br  
Governors of Ca  
Great age and v