

PREFACE TO THE THIRD VOLUME.

IN carrying on any work whose progress must be regulated by the march of time, there are certain stages or resting places, at which the conductor ought to pause, for the purpose of taking a retrospective view of what he has done. This he will find of essential service to him in many respects. If, on a review of his performance, he finds nothing wrong, no error to offend his eye, and that he is proceeding without any blemish but what the liberal disposition of his patron will excuse, he will have that most pleasing of all consolations, a sense of having done his duty to the best of his abilities, which will cheer him on through his future labours, and enable him to return to his task with renovated vigour. On the other hand, should he find himself deviating from the line he ought to pursue, or if he may *par hazard*, have wandered a little from the original path, this retrospect will give him an opportunity of timeously correcting his error before it be too late.

As our last number completed the second volume of our infant miscellany, we avail ourselves of this place to take a view of the progress we have made, and to examine how far we have acquitted ourselves of the task we undertook to perform. There is, besides this, another reason for our here making a pause to examine the state in which we stand with our patrons and friends. The CANADIAN MAGAZINE has now been twelve months before the public. That ephemeral favour and patronage which arises from the charms and allurements attached to novelty, and which is the result of first appearances, has given place to the steady support which tried merit and a longer acquaintance produce. The high estimation which is now manifested towards this work is (we flatter ourselves) the effect of a mature examination of its character, and a kind disposition to overlook its defects. Upon a contemplation of this it is impossible for us to suppress those emotions of honest pride which must naturally result from our finding ourselves in this state. The public at an early stage of the work manifested their approbation of the plan; and it is to a close adherence to it that the success of the work is attributable.