

## P R E F A T O R Y .

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THE compiler considers it due to himself and respectful to the public of San Francisco, to say a few words explanatory and apologetic, by way of preface, on the appearance of COLVILLE'S SAN FRANCISCO DIRECTORY AND GAZETEER.

Having had considerable experience in this branch of business, the compiler, with slight hesitation, complied with the wish of many personal friends, among the merchants of this city, who declared that a really complete Directory of San Francisco was very much needed, and being favorably impressed with his capacity for the work, urged him to undertake it. But, impelled by a higher ambition than the publication of a mere Directory, and desirous of establishing an enterprise of a permanent character, by laying the foundation of an annual commensurate with the present importance and prospective greatness of the metropolis of the Pacific, he proposed that his book should contain, not only the names and residences of the citizens, with the ordinary data usually included in such registers, but that it should also contain, arranged in a concise and systematic manner, a brief review of the history of the city, short biographical notices and sketches of its institutions, enterprises, etc., by which, so to speak, a picture would be presented, reminding the early citizen of almost forgotten reminiscences, and interesting him in present progress, while the new-comer could, within a reasonable space, possess himself of the important features of the past and present of San Francisco.

How nearly he has realized his conception in this work must be determined by his patrons—but he has fallen short of his own desires, and very far short of what he hopes to make of its successors; he can, however, conscientiously affirm, that he has spared neither labor nor expense in his efforts to perfect the work.