

PREFATORY.

THE SAN FRANCISCO DIRECTORY for 1858, is the first volume of that work issued by the present compiler; and in placing the result of his labors before the public, he considers it an appropriate occasion to make a few remarks relative to the enterprise in which he is engaged.

In the preparation of the present volume, the compiler has aimed to arrange a Directory more comprehensive in its plan, and more systematic in its arrangement, than any publication of a similar character hitherto issued in California. He has endeavored to present a Manual of Reference so useful and valuable, that its successors may be deemed welcome annual visitors to every citizen. To this end he has devoted unremitting industry and the most vigilant care. How far he has given evidence of his ability to accomplish this, must be determined by the succeeding pages; and in referring thereto, he only asks that indulgence for any defects which may exist therein, that he has a right to expect, when the peculiarities of the enterprise are taken into consideration.

There is, probably, no enterprise which is surrounded with so many obstacles to its successful prosecution, as the preparation of a work like the present; and especially in this city, where there is so much reluctance expressed by many persons to communicate the necessary information. In this respect, the compiler has met with so many cases where parties have refused their names, occupation and residence, that it has required considerable time and labor to complete the work in a satisfactory manner. He anticipates, however, that these difficulties will not exist to any considerable extent hereafter, and that a more universal desire will be expressed to assist him in his efforts to establish permanently a work of so much importance to the city, as a complete and reliable Directory. The almost entire absence of numbers from buildings throughout the city, is another obstacle which prevents the exact locality of residence being fixed. The only portion of our population who appear to regard