

## P R E F A C E .

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LANCASHIRE has long been to Great Britain the cradle of mercantile science, and the great emporium for machinery and manufactures. A publication, therefore, which presents to the reader a pictorial cyclopedia of what is most remarkable in the County, accompanied with incidental notices of the rise and progress of its trade, can hardly fail to meet the approval of an enterprising and commercial people.

That this is a Work of no common character, the number of its Engravings, and the superior manner in which they have been executed, will most fully attest. To elucidate, explain, and describe these superb graphic ILLUSTRATIONS, the letter-press accompanying each plate has been purposely adapted. It irradiates the site on which the pictorial objects stand; and, while diffusing some rays of light on the horizon of time and space by which they are bounded, glances at the general history of this populous County.

To those who desire more full and comprehensive information respecting the history and topography of this County, we beg to solicit their attention to Baïnes' elaborate History of Lancashire, now in course of publication. Many Views of Seats of the Nobility and Gentry, with other Views and Antiquities, not included in the ILLUSTRATIONS, will be found displayed with exquisite beauty in that work.

To the expense incurred in sending this publication into the world, the price at which it has been, and still continues to be sold, bears but a very inadequate proportion. It was not to a heavy charge, but to an extended sale, that the proprietors were induced to look for a reimbursement of the capital advanced. Having, therefore, accomplished their undertaking on these liberal principles, from which they are not disposed to deviate, they flatter themselves that the patronage hitherto conferred on this publication will be considerably increased, now the volume is complete.