

He claims indulgence only to the extent that may be justified by the fact that, it being a pioneer work of the character in this city, he was without the advantage which the present work must be to the future; to the difficulty, aggravated by that circumstance, of obtaining from those in possession of it, the various and extended information required; the reluctance of many individuals to have their former official relations mentioned; and, finally, to the unexpected announcement of an opposition Directory, which, however incomplete or unsatisfactory it might prove, was still formidable enough to destroy the hope of reasonable gain on this publication, if suffered to appear much in advance of it; hence, the compiler has anticipated, by some weeks, the date at which he intended to have his book out, and to that extent curtailed the time intended to have been devoted to the compilation and careful revision of the reading matter.

In reference to the register of names, no expense has been spared to make it complete and accurate; nevertheless there are many omissions arising from the absence of inmates, and refusal, in numerous instances, of persons to give their names or the names of others, partners or inmates with them, fearing consequences, in reference to taxation or jury duty, if their names and residences were given; or, perhaps, influenced by pride or mere caprice to prevent the publication of their residence.

Notwithstanding these defects, the compiler relies, with implicit confidence, upon the community who have so generously sustained his work by their subscriptions and advertisements, firm in the conviction that the material found in its pages is well calculated to convey a clear impression of the character and importance of the city, as well as aid its business men in their pursuits, promising the citizens and his patrons that each year shall exhibit a progressive improvement in every department of the enterprise.

The uniform courtesy which the compiler has received from all those holding official position to whom it was necessary to apply for information, and their ready acquiescence, attended frequently with great labor in furnishing the information sought, would render it invidious here to mention individual names; but these gentlemen are assured of his grateful appreciation of their kindness, and enjoy the satisfaction of having contributed matter useful and important, otherwise inaccessible.