

P R E F A C E .

We have completed the History of Poultney according to the best of our ability and the means of information within our reach, and such as it is we dedicate to the "present and coming generations."

At the annual town meeting in Poultney, in March, 1873, a resolution was adopted appointing Joseph Joslin, Barnes Frisbie and Frederick Ruggles a committee to collect materials for the History. That committee, soon after their appointment, commenced the work assigned them, and before the year closed had the larger portion of the body of the history prepared. But in the year 1874 very little was done. In the spring of 1875 the committee took upon themselves the responsibility of publishing the History, and made their arrangements accordingly. That our work is incomplete we are aware, and how could it be otherwise? We could obtain no information from the first settlers, for they had all passed away. Some items had been copied from the town records prior to their destruction by fire, in 1862. Church and family records, inscriptions on monuments in the cemeteries, old account books—all that would throw light upon the history of the town were sought and examined. We consulted the oldest inhabitants, both personally and by letter; availed ourselves of tradition, when it was deemed reliable. With such sources of information we have done the best we could, and hope critics will pass charitably over our work, for, notwithstanding its incompleteness, we think we have saved much from oblivion which in a few years would have been beyond the reach of the historian.

In the spring of 1875 we decided to go more into biographical and family sketches than was at first contemplated. This gave us more work, and of the most tiresome and perplexing kind. We published a request in the Poultney Journal to fam-

ilies to furnish the necessary information for these sketches, and, in addition to the published notice, we made personal application to very many for the desired material; but few complied, leaving us to pick up the materials as best we could. We are aware that some families have been omitted, others have meagre sketches, and our only apology is, we cannot give information unless we can procure it.

It would be strange if some errors were not found. Writers and printers are liable to mistakes, and those furnishing dates and other information are not free from such liability. We ask the reader to make due allowance for the literary execution of our work, for it has been done amid the cares and interruptions of other business, and we are aware that the literature of the family sketches will not endure close criticism. We did not engage in this work with any idea of making money out of it; we knew when we commenced that the profits would not be in dollars and cents. A hundred years had passed away since the town was settled, and no historic record had been made. We believed that even a partial history of the first half century of the town's existence would be written soon or never. To preserve what we could of that history has been our aim. Our work, such as it is, is before you.