

PREFACE

IN this attempt candidly to appreciate and describe the spirit of the two groups of colonists who were contending for the control of the North American continent, extracts from contemporary documents are largely used to illustrate the points of resemblance and difference in the methods and policy adopted by the neighbouring colonists, or permitted by the parent states to be practised by them. Certain phases, therefore, of colonial life are described in detail, out of proportion perhaps to their actual importance, because they illustrate such resemblances or differences. Champlain's own narrative is the most reliable record of the doings of France on the St. Lawrence during thirty years of the seventeenth century. Bradford's *Journal* describes with minute detail the social and economic growth of the Plymouth Colony; whereas, from the narrative written by Winthrop—the first Governor of the Bay State—we deduce the process by which was built up out of a trading company's charter, a Constitutional State. It expresses the spirit of independence which from the first possessed the colonists, their determination to resist any interference by the mother country, and the freedom with which they engaged in negotiations with their French neighbours, irrespective of the interest or the influence of the mother country. These different phases of colonial growth and policy are conspicuously illustrated in these two important