

## PREFACE.

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Though the Preface comes first, it is usually written last; and to this custom, for special reasons. PICTURESQUE CANADA is no exception. Now, that the last page of of the work has been written, the time has come to explain and give thanks. I was reluctant to undertake the editorship, but consented because, being in sympathy with Canadian aspirations and knowing Canada from ocean to ocean, I believed that a work that would represent its characteristic scenery and the history and life of its people would not only make us better known to ourselves and to strangers, but would also stimulate national sentiment and contribute to the rightful development of the nation. The favour with which the work has been received is due not merely to its artistic merit, but to the growing patriotic spirit of the people, and their desire, therefore, to see faithfully reproduced some of the scenes of the land they love.

Beginning at the rock of Quebec, where our life began, we traced the early history of Canada, and followed the track of the fur-traders and *coureurs de bois* up the St. Lawrence to Three Rivers and Montreal; up the Ottawa, across to the Nipissings, and far on to the Lake of the Woods and the thousand miles of alluvial beyond, where the Verendryes first built forts and made alliances with prairie chiefs, and where the foundations of mighty provinces are now being laid. We stopped at the Rocky Mountains, and returned to hear the thunder of Niagara, and to trace the beginnings of the strong political life of Ontario in its centres at Niagara, Toronto and the fertile western peninsula. The newer counties on Lake Huron, and the romantic scenery of Muskoka next received attention; and then the old settlements of the United Empire Loyalists on the Bay of Quinté. From Kingston we followed the course of the St. Lawrence through the Thousand Islands and past the Eastern Townships and Tadousac, down to where the great river meets the sea-like Gulf. Lastly, the Atlantic prov-