

PREFACE.

The only apology which the author wishes to offer the public for the appearance of this little work is the earnest hope and sincere desire which he entertains that it may help to correct some misapprehensions and to soften, if not remove, some prejudices which, unhappily, prevail all too extensively amongst a certain class of English-speaking people in various parts of Canada concerning the French-speaking people of the Province of Quebec. He himself, born and educated in Ontario, once had similar misapprehensions and was subject to the same prejudices. But actual intercourse with the people of the lower province, during a residence amongst them of some eleven years, has convinced him that he was mistaken; and he is persuaded that these people are much misunderstood, and are accused of holding certain obnoxious opinions which they have never entertained, and are not given credit for many a virtue which they undoubtedly possess.

Believing that the continuance of this state of things, particularly if fomented by unprincipled partizans for unworthy purposes, must be followed by disastrous consequences in the