

PREFACE

FROM many sources, at many times, in various ways, has the material for this book been gathered. For years I had jotted down anything I found interesting relating to the early history of the town, not with any idea of using in this way, but merely to please myself. The first suggestion that I should write the history of Niagara was made to me by Lady Edgar several years before her death, but other occupations prevented this being carried out. From old Niagara papers, from books of travel, from original documents, from tales told by the earliest inhabitants, from happy days spent in many libraries, I have gleaned. Had I begun the work while some of the old pioneers of this vicinity were living, much more, never to be gained now, might have been obtained. I have thought it remarkable that very few of the early families have kept records of the time of landing here, but there have been sad reasons to explain the absence of these documents in the events of 1813-1814. It is to be hoped that in every town, township and county of this vast Dominion swept by three great oceans steps may be taken to gather, while it may be done, the first beginnings, the noble deeds, the struggles to conquer the hard conditions of life. Much has been done in some places, as, for instance, the story of the Talbot settlement, by Dr. Coyne, and the pathetic story