AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

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in Canada, and encourages the ambitious views of our annexing neighbours. It is vain to think of it: the British Government have expended, of late years, very large sums, in improving the communications, and strengthening the military defences of the country. They have announced their determination to incur the hazards of war before sacrificing their claim to a remote dependency of this magnificent province. Rather than surrender the North American portion of her empire, England will risk her existence as a nation. A vast majority of her subjects in this country* are ready to stand by her to the last.

It is my earnest wish to assist, as far as my feeble voice can be heard, in giving our English people at home a more intimate knowledge of our "England in the New World;" of its climate and capabilities; of the condition of its inhabitants; of their social habits and amusements. Numbers of books have been already written on this country;* mine is not to supply any want, but simply as one more—as further testimony to the interest of the subject.

* Canada.—ED.

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