

PREFACE

If every book must have a preface, and every author an excuse for writing it, then we will briefly explain why this book asks for a hearing.

Every student of literature has read Longfellow's beautiful poem, "Evangeline," and generations yet unborn will read and re-read it with increasing interest as the years go by. Indeed, while lovers love and hearts are true, the story of Evangeline will never lose its charm.

With its historic setting, it will always enlist our sympathies and command our admiration for the loyalty, simplicity and self-sacrifice of these home-loving Acadian peasants. The reader naturally asks how much of the poem is historically true, and where he may find something more definite relating to this people, without searching through musty records, to find, here and there, bits of information upon the subject.

Our smaller histories merely mention the incident of their expulsion, and lack of space prevents their throwing any additional sidelight upon the subject. We have, therefore, compiled from the most recent and authentic sources, supplemented by a trip