

PREFACE.

IN writing this book my desire has been to draw an exact copy of the picture which is indelibly stamped on my own memory. I have carefully avoided exaggeration in everything of importance. All the chief, and most of the minor incidents are facts. In regard to unimportant matters I have taken the liberty of a novelist,—not to colour too highly, or to invent improbabilities, but,—to transpose time, place, and circumstance at pleasure; while, at the same time, I have endeavoured to convey to the reader's mind a truthful impression of the *general effect*,—to use a painter's language,—of the life and country of the Fur Trader.

EDINBURGH, 1856.