

PREFACE.

THE collection of notes for the life story of "A Veteran of 1812" was suggested to me some three years ago by the enquiries of Mr. Edwards, late editor of the *Dominion Illustrated*, who was then anxious to devote a portion of the columns of that paper to the record of men who had been more or less prominent in Canadian history.

I began with a handful of private letters, a brief epitome of his services, and the cherished recollections of my childhood—stories, told us in the nursery, of the soldier and his early life in Canada. After spending some months in Ireland, visiting what my friends called "the cradle of the race," I devoted long hours to patient research in the Archives at Ottawa, and with the kind help of friends who had valued FitzGibbon's correspondence sufficiently to preserve his letters, I have not only been enabled to verify these early traditions, but have accumulated sufficient material to put together a fairly consecutive biography of a man who lived through one of the most interesting periods of our history.

He was one whose personality was sufficiently pronounced, and whose courage, integrity and singleness of purpose were strong enough to leave an impression on his time. "One," to quote from a letter addressed to Lord Stanley, then Secretary for the Colonies (July 2nd, 1842),