

PREFACE.

WILLIAM HAMILTON MERRITT, the author of the following "Personal Narrative," was born at Bedford in the State of New York, on July 3d. 1793. He became a resident of Upper Canada in 1796, and served through the war of 1812, first as lieutenant and subsequently as captain in the Provincial Dragoons. In 1824 he succeeded in forming a company to construct the Welland Canal, of which he became agent and manager. In 1832 he was elected to represent the County of Halton in the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada, for which he continued to sit until the union of the two Provinces, when he was elected for the north riding of the County of Lincoln. In 1848 he became a member of the Baldwin-Lafontaine Administration as President of the Council, and in 1850 was appointed Commissioner of Public Works, but resigned a few months later. He continued to represent the same constituency in the Legislative Assembly until 1860, when he was elected to the Legislative Council for the Niagara District. He died on July 5th, 1862, near Cornwall, while on his way to the sea shore in the hope of restoring his health.

The Personal Narrative, now printed *verbatim* for the first time, was prepared by him while a prisoner of war in the United States. It is written on foolscap paper and the pages were originally numbered from 1 to 25, but pages 17, 18, 19 and 20 have been lost.

E. C.