

PREFACE.

If it is, as I believe, wise and patriotic to preserve a record of the lives of men, whose private character and public services have been such as to afford an example and inspiration to others, especially in a young country in the formative stage; no apology is needed for giving some account of a life so full of activity and usefulness as that of Sir James Robert Gowan,—Judge and Senator.

I would, however, scarcely have undertaken such a work, had I not already been somewhat familiar with the subject, having on several occasions written sketches of notable incidents in my Uncle's career; moreover, it pleased my good Uncle to make me his literary executor, bequeathing to me all his manuscripts, letters and private papers.

These sketches, revised and enlarged, appeared in a small volume in 1894, edited by A. H. U. Colquhoun, B.A., which has greatly facilitated the preparation of the present work.

I hope that the relatives and friends of Sir James Gowan, for whom the following pages have been especially written, will find interest and pleasure in their perusal.

H. H. ARDAGH.

"Ardraven," Barrie.

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