

PREFACE

It is scarcely necessary to offer an apology for intruding upon public notice the contents of the following pages. Whoever rescues from the ruin of years the primaries of his country does his nation a perpetual service.

The things herein written have been the products of enthusiasm—the offspring of delight. The romance of the things has become more and more real as the compilation has proceeded, until the writer has become seized of the conviction that other people should be afforded the privilege of sharing in a delight which they could not but appreciate. There has been no desire to parade either a person or a family, but the conviction has grown that through the agency of a family, and in its scattered heirlooms, there were conserved invaluable germs of national life, and that matters of more than common importance ought to be put into some tangible form, capable of preservation for the benefit of future historians.

At times, during the writing of Canadian history and biography, some individual characters have been given special prominence without much detail regarding their environment; the effect may be the perpetuation in the national consciousness of a name and the celebration of the virtues of a person, without giving sufficient credit to those who were the special creators of opportunities for such persons. And the consequences to our own times may be disastrous, as the result is, on the one hand to