

PREFACE.

THIS BOOK has been written for the purpose of placing before the people of Canada, in a single volume, the story of the defence of our country from foreign invasion during the last war between Great Britain and the United States of America. As this defence could not have been successful but for the hearty co-operation of our ancestors, the people of Canada of that day, this war ought to be regarded as Canada's first and greatest contribution to the work of empire building; for the fervent loyalty, which within a year or two, has sent so many of the sons of Canada to fight the battles of Great Britain in South Africa, received its first illustration on the battle fields of the War of 1812.

I have not thought it necessary to burthen the pages of this book with foot notes and references to authorities, because the official sources of our knowledge of the war are so few in number as to render such references unnecessary. For the movements of the armies, the numbers of the British troops engaged, and the losses of the latter, I have relied on the British official despatches. For the numbers of the American armies and their losses, I have accepted the American official despatches, except where they were manifestly in error. Where a private authority is relied on for any statement, I have usually mentioned it in the text, one of the few exceptions to this being with regard to the reasons which led Capt. Barclay to neglect the blockading of Perry's fleet