



## PREFACE.

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**T**HERE is no portion of the Dominion of which so little is generally known as "Our North Land," a term which I have applied to that vast expanse of territory stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the fiftieth parallel to the Arctic Circle; and yet I venture to say that there is no other part of the continent which presents a greater variety of interesting features—features interesting to the student of natural history; to the lover of travel, romance, and adventure; to the man of business, on the look out for opportunities of profitable trade and commerce; to the miner and prospector; to the promoters of railway and steamboat lines; to the student of meteorology; and especially to the young, who should improve every opportunity of extending their knowledge of the physical geography of their own country.

The following pages are founded chiefly upon the experiences of the Canadian Government Expedition to Hudson's Bay and Strait; Mr. Klotz's overland Expedition to Hudson's Bay; Dr. Bell's Hudson's Bay Explorations; the Travels and Explorations in the North-West of Dr. Selwyn, Mr. Marcus Smith and many others, and the Travels and Experiences of the Author.

I have endeavoured, from the information thus obtained, to give an account of the vast resources of the region in question, to describe the industries now in active operation, and to point out the possibilities of their future development. The export from the products of the oil-bearing animals of the waters of Hudson's Bay alone amounts, at the present time, to over \$150,000 annually, and may be increased to five times that amount; in many districts the fur trade is yet in its infancy; and the cod, salmon, and trout fisheries offer large and sure returns to almost any extent that capital and labour can be found to develop them.