

PREFACE.

Knowing how precious my mother's journals and letters are, and that they are now scattered among various members of the family in Canada and Ireland, I have corresponded with those more distant, and collected from those who are near, and have been able to compile the present volume as a means of preserving from gradual extinction what cannot help being of great interest and use to her descendants for many coming generations. Her friend, Miss Beaufert, was requested by some of her friends to do something of this kind, as I find from the following extract dated in 1833:—

"Some friends are most anxious to have a collection of your letters printed, with a little history of you between, to connect them together. But I am not at all inclined to do so; the letters would be spoiled by cutting and carving, and omitting the tender expressions which are so delightful to us. I feel jealous that outside people should see them." Such were the words of an accomplished authoress many years ago. And it has now devolved on me to do in an imperfect manner what she did not like to do.

My first idea was that this volume should only be for members of our own family, but so many incidents and events of great public interest are recorded by my mother relating to the early days of the town and country about Peterboro', that I have been persuaded to give it to the public. The many little incidents and observations relating to her own children and household details cannot be expected to interest those outside the family. But as they are fondly looked back to by the older members of the family, who remember the happy days of their childhood, and as the book was originally intended *only* for the family, it is hoped that these things will be looked upon with a lenient eye. My mother was impressed with the belief in an over-ruling Providence, and the whole tone of her letters is of submission and thankfulness, as her life was in simple trust in Him.

I also wish to say that thanks are due, and are gratefully offered, to my mother's correspondents, who so long preserved these letters. Also to my friend, Mr. Arnold Haultain, who has generously given his time to overlooking all matters connected with the publication of the work.