

P R E F A C E . /

THE simple Tale unfolded in the following pages, was not originally intended to be issued with any prefatory remarks. Advised, however, that it is usual to do so, the author, having no wish to deviate from the established custom, will merely say :

Although the literary treasures of "the old world" are ever open to us, and our American neighbors should continue to inundate the country with reading-matter, intended to meet all wants and suit all tastes and sympathies, at prices which enable every one to partake of this never-failing and ever-varying feast ; yet Canadians should not be discouraged from endeavoring to form and foster a literature of their own.

More than one successful effort towards the attainment of this object has been made within the last few years, and more than one valuable work, Canadian in