

Preface

strong human feeling. The "Recollections" were written in 1836, by Mrs. William Martin Johnston, then aged seventy-two, a woman of strong character, clear intellect, and deep religious feeling, and with a life behind her unusually full of vicissitude and change. As the reminiscences show, she was born and married in Georgia, at the time of the war was obliged to flee to Florida, thence went to Scotland, next settled in the West Indies, and at last, by a singular fate, became, as she remained till her death, a resident of Nova Scotia. In that Province and in other parts of Canada her descendants have held, and still hold, positions of the highest social and political importance. That these "Recollections" are of very wide historical or even biographical interest, no one could possibly claim; but the writer, who belonged to an important colonial family, lived through an exciting period of American history, bore her share in the heavy personal misfortunes of the political party to which she and her family belonged, spent her subsequent life in two separate British colonies, took many long voyages in uncomfortable sailing vessels on stormy seas, and left descendants who have