

these last would at present appeal to very many readers outside the Dominion. But the earlier period has far more claims to general notice, and is in truth a far more stirring one, not only from its really dramatic episodes in both peace and war, but from the fact that through the whole of it Canada was more or less involved in the great struggle of nations which agitated the world from the Seven Years' War till the fall of Napoleon.

There are several excellent short histories of Canada ; compassing its three centuries in a single volume, achievements of compression that admit of room for little more than bare facts ; history condensed for elementary purposes, not for the type of reader whose interest I have before solicited upon this subject, and now again venture to solicit. There are also many-volumed works valuable to the student and specialist, but altogether out of scale for the purpose in hand even if readily accessible to the general reader, which they are not.

I have here attempted to depict the most vital and most interesting period of Canadian history within a compass that is neither sketchy on the one hand, nor monumental on the other. The original material for this period, in the State Papers, the British Museum, and elsewhere, is abundant. I had already collected a great deal of that used here for my *Life of Dorchester*, recently written for the publisher and editors of *The Makers of Canada* series. In the final chapters dealing with the war of 1812-15 I was confronted with the difficulties of compression, and unlike the rest of the period was on ground that has been admirably and recently covered in handy volumes by Dr. Hannay and Mr. Lucas as well as in older and practically obsolete works.

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