

torical labours, such as they were, had been finally terminated ; and that the greatly widened literary field, which now presented itself, would lead some more competent writer, with the necessary leisure at his command, to undertake the task of giving the people of Canada a good general history of their country. As yet, however, no historian of this description has made his appearance, and the *hiatus valde deflendus* in our literature still continues to exist.\* In order to prepare the way for his advent at some future day, to supply him in part, at least, with the necessary material for his labours, and, in the meanwhile, to fill a present literary want, these volumes are now most respectfully submitted to the public. They contain only a part of the author's former work, and even that part has been carefully revised, or wholly re-written, and largely added to. Every old authority originally used has been re examined, and every important statement verified anew, while the historical material of any value which has accumulated since Confederation has been fully consulted, the chief object being to make this work as accurate and as reliable as possible. To render it still more useful, especially for reference purposes, in addition to the very full "table of contents," a copious index will be supplied at the end of the second volume, which will be shortly put to press.

Wholly independent of political parties ; without the slightest disposition to favour either one side or the other, but most anxious to deal fairly by both ; with an experience ripened by the progress of time and a close and constant observation of public affairs and public men, the author has applied himself to the task of giving the people of Canada a history of their country,

\* The reader will bear in mind that the author is only speaking of a general History of Canada. Many excellent works exist on detached portions of Canadian History. Garneau's History of Lower Canada, up to the Union in 1840, although written from a French-Canadian stand point, and very inaccurate and misleading at times, is an excellent work on the whole. Parkman's admirable series, based almost exclusively on records from the archives of France, or on the authority of French writers, completely exhaust all the more dramatic and romantic episodes of the Canada of the Old *Régime*, and clearly prove how frequently wrong and partial Garneau is.