

important, a story of the fading past too; for not only does she share with Quebec in the romance of the early Canadian days, but she has many stirring chapters that are peculiarly her own. In the shelter of her primeval forests, by her streams and lakes, and on her fertile plains, the Indian hunted, fished and cultivated his corn. To him the missionary came, and purchased the land with the price of his martyr blood for a coming civilization. Feud and foray, tribe against tribe, trader against trader—pawns to greater interests on the chessboard of nations, furnish incident and event to which the commingling of human passions lend a never absent pathos.

The great fur trade marks a period of exploration, progressing through conflict and struggle to times of remarkable development and prosperity.

The sufferings and services of the United Empire Loyalists receive considerable attention, for to these pioneers Canada, and especially Ontario, owes a deep debt. They laid the foundations of the province and left to posterity the priceless heritage of loyalty, patriotism and untarnished honor, as well as an example of personal character distinguished for its moral fibre and strength.

From the organization of the province as Upper Canada, down to our own time, the leading political events have been followed, necessarily briefly, yet, it is hoped, nothing essential to the continuity and comprehensiveness of the narrative has been omitted. The demands of space, obvious in a work of this scope, will explain the congestion of data to be noticed on these pages.

Every source of information open to the writer, has been placed under tribute freely, acknowledgment of which will be found in the text. Special thanks are due to Professor W. G. Miller, Toronto, in connection with the chapter on the mineral resources of Ontario; and to Captain E. J. Chambers for that on its military development. The assistance of Mr. J. Stewart Carstairs, B.A., Toronto, was also most helpful; and to him I am under obligation for the kindly, and all too flattering personal reference which closes the biographical sketches in the second volume.

ALEXANDER FRASER.