

PUBLIC MEN AND PUBLIC LIFE IN CANADA

CHAPTER I

THE PASSING OF THE STAGE-COACH

MY acquaintance with public men and public life in Canada dates from my first connection with the press. This was in August, 1853, on the 10th of which month the first number of the *Dumfries Reformer*, Galt, was issued under my management. I was then only a youth of eighteen, but brimful of enthusiasm for everything connected with the press and public life, which was tinged with a *couleur de rose* so deep and fascinating that, although rather dim and faded now, it has not entirely vanished, notwithstanding all the varied vicissitudes which bridge the chasm between that period and the present.

When one thinks what the Dominion of Canada is to-day, and what the scattered colonies composing British North America were less than half a century ago, visions of "Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp" recur to the imagination, so remarkable is the transformation throughout the country which has since taken place.