

loyal colonies, (now the Dominion of Canada); for instance, the *Illustrated London News*, the *Dublin War-der*, and the wide-spread *Belfast Weekly*, in whose columns I have found a great many well-written letters from officers and correspondents, who in reality had mingled through the ordeal of the scene. I must say, from those brilliant fountains I received that information which induced me to enter on so perilous a work. True, I acknowledge to having embellished it with a small portion of nature's poetical fancy. So strange were the contrivances of men and rulers during that period, that, had it not been for the government press and the different emissaries issued to the many suspicious courts, through whose vigilance the necessary information was immediately forwarded to the powerful press of Britain, before whose thunder the guilty crouch and tyrants tremble, and which had in many respects the desired effect to frustrate many a well laid scheme, it would, in all probability, have terminated in some deadly struggle of which we have had no conception.

I, therefore, have every confidence that this work will be found pleasing to all those who may be disposed to give its pages a perusal. The reader will find a great many well executed portraits of Generals, Officers and Subordinates, who have figured conspicuously and stood most prominent in many a hard fought battle.

I have traced and reviewed over and over again, the origin and termination of those deadly struggles which cost so much and lasted so long, in which, during the period of ten years, England had been unremittingly engaged. With or without an ally, she had been enabled, through the interposition of Divine Providence, continually to come out victorious. Had any other nation been engaged single-handed as she was, it was doomed to destruction, or buried in oblivion for one hundred years to come. But what do we find? We find Russia, Persia,