

PRÉFACE.

THE present compilation was not undertaken with the idea of giving to the literary public a complete anthology of Canadian verse. The necessarily limited space in a Birthday Book would prevent it from achieving that position.

Nevertheless, it will, I think, be conceded that, in default of such a work, the little book I have the honour to present to a Canadian public deserves to be welcomed as the only existing publication where, between the same covers, may be found carefully selected specimens of French and English Canadian verse.

To speak briefly of the selections themselves, they include any good, important, or suitable verse I could find from the year 1732, when Jean Taché published his *Tableau de la Mer* in Quebec, up to the present time—these latter days sweet with the impassioned singing of a Roberts and a Sangster; Chansons populaires, Chansons historiques, the New Year's Day couplets of the old journals, the verses inspired by a triad of rebellions, the published volumes of our more ambitious writers, from Michel Bibaud (1830), Adam Kidd, John Breakenridge, and Alex. McLachlan down to Mrs. Maclean, Miss Crawford, and Professor Roberts, representatives of the modern or post-Tennysonian school, the ephemeral and often beautiful contributions noted in the various ill-fated magazines that from time to time have struggled into existence and fallen out of it again in an incredibly short period—these are some of the sources from which have been drawn the contents of the following pages. Thomas D'Arcy McGee and the Hon. Joseph Howe, poets of the highest order as well as statesmen, are both represented. I have felt also that it would be not only courteous but a matter of great interest and value to us in Canada and to other countries, where I trust the book will go, to include some extracts from the fine group of poems suggested by Canadian subjects to that noble poet who has the interests of Canada so truly at heart—the Right Hon. the Marquis of Lorne, K.C.M.G.; and I have ventured to take a similar liberty by including in my compilation some of Lord Dufferin's