

PREFACE

THIS selection from the writings of the late John F. Macdonald—between 1907 and 1913—finds, naturally, and without any arbitrary arrangement, its unity of character, as the middle volume of the book, in three parts, that it was this author's ruling desire—rather than his deliberate and predetermined purpose—to spend many years in writing. The first volume of his book was *Paris of the Parisians*, the last was the posthumous volume recently published, under the title of *Two Towns—One City*. In order to convey a clear idea of the motive and ruling method that give literary and spiritual unity to this long book in three volumes, which stands for the accomplished desire of a brief life, let me quote the author's own account of this desire given in his Preface to *Paris of the Parisians*, where, at twenty years of age, he described himself as "a student of human life, still in his humanities":

"The purpose of these sketches is not political nor yet didactic. No charge is laid upon me to teach the French nation its duties, to reprove it for its follies. Nor yet is it my design to hold up Paris of the Parisians as an example of naughtiness, nor even of virtue, to English readers. A student of human life still in my humanities, my