

## PREFACE.

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IT has too long been customary in Canada to regard as proper subjects for biographical literature only persons who have figured in political life. But, in preparing the present work, we have departed from this custom, and present to our readers a group of men who have, during their life time, contributed in some conspicuous way to the moral, intellectual, industrial and political growth of our country. To those, and to others who have hewn out homes for themselves in the wilderness, and little by little overcome the obstacles of nature, are we indebted now for our wide stretches of cultivated lands, our smiling villages, and our thriving towns and cities.

As men are for ever drifting down the slow stream of time—and a few of those mentioned in this volume have been called to the higher life while it was going through the press—most of their deeds, like themselves, pass into oblivion, it has been our earnest desire, while the opportunity presents itself, to save as much of the record as possible for posterity. As for the literary and artistic portions of the work, no pains have been spared to make these equal to the other parts, and we shall feel pleased if we have succeeded in meeting the views of our numerous readers.

TORONTO, November, 1892.