

P R E F A C E.

WITHIN the last decade of the history of Great Britain, some very important books have been added to her literature, and especially to that particular division which treats of her wars and splendid victories, during the same period. "The Fifteen Decisive Battles of the World," by Sir E. S. Creasy, Chief Justice of Ceylon; "The Twelve Great Battles of England," inscribed to the British Volunteers of 1860; "England's Battles by Sea and Land," "Russell's Crimea and India," "Emerson's Sebastopol," &c., are valuable in themselves, as describing those victories which have raised "Dear Old England" to the *very first* rank among the nations. But the object of the present publication embraces a larger and more extended field of research. It embraces the whole of the principal battles, by land and sea, that have EVER taken place, from the earliest recorded action of which we have in history any distinct and reliable information, to the very last event of military importance which has transpired previous to going to press.

I need scarcely say here that that event is the unprecedented and unheard of invasion of our country, by a band of lawless brigands and filibusterers, from the neighbouring Republic, ycleped Fenians, who have shed blood, and wantonly invaded the territory of a friendly power. It gives me much pleasure to insert in the "Cyclopædia of Battles" some account of how they were met by our brave Volunteers, at Ridgeway and Pigeon Hill; for it proves that the Volunteers of Canada will compare favorably with those of the Mother Country: and let it be borne in mind that one-half of the