

PREFACE

THIS book is virtually a sequel to *The Fight with France for North America*, now republished, in which I described the long Anglo-French conflict that terminated in the conquest of Canada. The title I venture to think is entirely justified, in spite of the fact that the various provinces were not consolidated into what is now known as the Dominion of Canada till a much later day. In the half-century following the conquest, of which the present book treats, occurred all those events which formed and stereotyped the British provinces as did every crisis which seriously threatened their existence and their future. After the American war of 1812-15 they were left free to pursue their respective destinies along the lines upon which the stormy period of trial, friction and bloodshed here dealt with had moulded them. During these first fifty years the Old French Canada was familiarised with British rule, the attempt of the revolting American Colonies to include it in their confederacy was frustrated, the loyalist refugees from that struggle arrived to create those British provinces which as populous and well-organised communities ultimately united with the other to form the present Dominion. Lastly, the close of this half-century witnessed that struggle for existence under the British flag, waged by both races side by side with British troops, which determined once and for all the question of allegiance and confined their future troubles and trials to matters of domestic if sometimes serious import. It would be idle to suppose that any relation of

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