

## Preface to First Edition.

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THE reproach has frequently been cast upon us that Canada has no history; it might be said of us with far more justice that we do not know our own history. The various historical societies are, by their efforts, trying to wipe away this reproach, and we feel proud or following in the wake of the Lundy's Lane Historical Society in publishing a paper written by Capt Cruikshank, who has so well earned the title of the Historian of the Niagara Peninsula.

Of the towns of Ontario not one, we are sure, possesses a history so eventful, so ancient, so interesting as Niagara, having been at different times a legislative, an educational, a military and a commercial centre, at one time occupied by the enemy and again a heap of smoking ruins, now a quiet summer resort with many points of historical interest, with wide streets shaded by old elms and having unrivalled lake and river scenery. The members of the youngest of these historical societies feel that they may congratulate themselves on being able to place in the hands of the public the story which so far has not been told of the Taking of Fort George, told, too, in a style so clear, so dispassionate, and shewing such deep research, a story of troublous times, which, so told, cannot but be helpful to old and young of every nationality.

Asking for our first venture a kind reception, we send it out to the public, hoping that it may do its part in proving that we have a not ignoble history which should inspire us to yet nobler deeds.

1896.

J. C.

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THE Battle of Fort George, the first publication of the Niagara Historical Society, was so well received that the edition has been exhausted for some time, and the society now reprints it as number twelve with many additions and corrections by its distinguished author, Lt.-Col. Cruikshank, V. D., who in his Documentary History of the War of 1812 and his other historical work has done so much valuable work for his country, work done without any pecuniary compensation, but from love of the work, which incentive perhaps always produces the best results.

For the engraving, The Taking of Fort George, we are indebted to the kindness and courtesy of the Hon. P. A. Porter, Niagara Falls, N. Y. It is from the Portfolio, published in Philadelphia, 1817, and is particularly interesting to us as giving the appearance of the churches St. Marks and St. Andrews before the town was burnt down, as also the lighthouse, situated exactly on the spot now occupied by the tower of Fort Mississauga.

J. C.