

## PREFACE.

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THE fifth pamphlet of the Niagara Historical Society, will, it is hoped, be received as favorably as the preceding numbers. The sermon by Rev. Robert Addison will be a pleasing surprise and will form a worthy companion to those of the other early ministers of Niagara which have been preserved. Found almost by accident, its leaves yellow with age, it has been a pleasing task to prepare it for the printer. For some time it has been desired that there should be some description of several historic houses, built before the war whose history is closely interwoven with the story of those heroic days, and we hope that the history of many others may be told before these deeds are forgotten, ere

The race of yore  
Who told our marvelling boyhood legions store,  
Of their strange ventures, happed by land or sea,  
Are blotted from the things that be.

So many of the early homes of the Niagara region were destroyed by fire in the War of 1812, and so many precious relics and valuable records thus perished that it is all the more incumbent on us to gather up all that can now be gained of the stories of pioneer life. Any who can assist in this way will confer a benefit on the Societies which are now endeavoring to make up for the long indifference of the past