



## CHAPTER I.

### EDMONTON TO ASSINIBOINE.

The Start for Peace River—Object of the Tour—Outline of Intended Route—Confused and Discouraging Reports—Our Party—Dinner *al fresco*—How to Cook Pemmican—A Miscellaneous Cavalcade—Mackenzie River Watershed—Lake La Nonne—The Odometer—Fording the Pembina—Heavy Timber—Reach Fort Assiniboine.

“HURRAH for the Peace River!” Such was the joyous exclamation of our botanist, as, after waving an affectionate adieu to our late travelling companions, he turned upon his heel, and remarked to me in a manner peculiarly his own, “Now *we* shall soon settle McLeod’s theory.”

It must here be remarked by way of explanation that in the early part of 1872 a pamphlet, styled “The Peace River,” had been published in the city of Ottawa, setting forth the possibility of a line of communication between the Eastern and Western parts of the Dominion of Canada, by the Valley of the Peace River. The author of the article in question had, with great ingenuity, aided by extracts from an old Hudson’s Bay Officer’s Journal and