

## PREFACE.

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As you all know, a recruiting office for the enlistment of "G" Company of the First Canadian Contingent was opened at St. John in October, 1899. I was Principal of the Hampton Superior School at the time, but determined to enlist, made application and was accepted.

The contingent sailed from Quebec on October 30th, and arrived in Africa on November 29th. There it had eleven months of good hard work, and experienced almost everything which could possibly happen to a battalion on active service.

A great number of the men were invalided with rheumatism, fever, and other sickness. I, myself, contracted a severe form of bronchitis, which rendered me almost speechless, and settled in my right lung. I was sent home, arriving at Sussex on Oct. 2nd.

Yielding to the many demands of my friends, and desiring to make some use of my time during my illness, in modesty, not claiming merit, I undertook this work. It has been a source of pleasure to me, in that it made the time pass more rapidly, and kept my mind from brooding over the unfortunate weakness of my voice and illness.

Already, then, in one way my little book has a measure of success. It presents to you conceptions of events as received by me. I want you to keep this in mind. I do not profess to picture scenes as witnessed by other eyes than mine. If my description does not tally in all respects with the ideas you have already received, be merciful, and consider that perhaps I am not gifted with that power of drawing true conceptions.

I make one claim for my book : to me it is truth.

I ask the reader to deal gently with it, and to pray, with me, that those literary vivisectionists will leave my child alone. Why