

PREFACE.

The origin of this book, which will account for some of its peculiarities of style, is as follows :—In the year 1890 the writer penned for the Stratford newspapers a series of articles on the subject here treated, after the publication of which a considerable number of persons in different parts of the county expressed a wish that they should be gathered together into a volume. This led to their revision, and the addition of nearly twice as much new matter, the whole forming the work which is now offered to the public.

That the book has many imperfections, the writer is well aware ; they are due partly to the fact that it has been written by economizing moments of leisure snatched from professional labors.

Upon a subject which so many pens have discussed it is, of course, hardly possible to say anything absolutely new ; the most a writer can hope to do is to recombine and present in simple and attractive forms, with fresh illustrations, so as to impress persons who have not been impressed before, thoughts which have substantially been repeated from the days of Dr. Doolittle to those of Hyslop and Carman.

The writer has received valuable information from the literature of R. J. Mcreedy, Dublin ; and G. Lacy Hillier, London, than whom none are better authorities, both being past-masters in the art, both being ex-British champions on the path, and both having the confidence of their fellow cyclists.

So far as known to the writer this is the first book on "Cycling" published in Canada. Indeed, "The Canadian Wheelman" and "Cycling," the former