

## INTRODUCTION.

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In these voyages (to pursue the simile) he had the opportunity of noting the shoals and quicksands that lay in the way, and of noting also the indications of the weather, so as to look out for coming storms and learn when it was necessary to take in sail, and when he might spread his sail to the breeze with safety. He thus, in course of time, accumulated a body of signs and indications of which he frequently availed himself. All this he has endeavored to embody in a readable form in this treatise, which he now sends forth, with the hope that it may serve for the guidance of men who are pursuing a course in which many difficulties and dangers have to be encountered, but which may be safely followed if men are only willing to learn by the experience of others, and to give close attention, hour by hour, as the mariner does to his compass, to the aspect of things around them. It is a course, in truth, in which many have been shipwrecked, but the shipwreck has generally arisen from inattention, from conceit, from unwillingness to take advice, and learn by the experience of those who have gone before them.

Geo. HAOUZ.

MONTREAL, March, 1908.