



P R E F A C E.

EARLY in the summer a meeting of gentlemen was held for the purpose of devising means for the due celebration of the centenary anniversary of the birth of Sir Walter Scott. At this meeting a Committee was appointed, and a number of conferences took place on the subject. It was found, however, that owing to the season of the year at which the anniversary occurred, and the fact that many persons were absent from the city with their families, it would be difficult to ensure such a public demonstration as would be worthy of so important an event. The general public celebration was, therefore, abandoned, and instead, the founding of a "Scott Scholarship" in the University of McGill, was resolved upon.

It was still, however, felt by a number of gentlemen that there should at least be something more to mark the centenary anniversary of so great a man as Sir Walter Scott; and while considering the matter an event occurred which led to the dinner at St. James' Club. Mr. Charles Mathews had accepted and was fulfilling an engagement at the Theatre Royal. The suggestion was made that if he, a contemporary and personal friend of Sir Walter Scott, could be induced to lend his assistance, something might be done. He was consulted on the subject, and the result was the dinner at St. James' Club House, particulars of which are here given. Less formal than some demonstrations which took place elsewhere, the circumstance of Mr. Mathew's presence at this dinner, and the personal references to Sir Walter Scott which he was able to make, render the St. James' Club dinner worthy of record among the many demonstrations which marked the general reverence for the memory of a great and good man.