

PREFACE.

Clinging to the seigniorial mansions of the old Province of Québec are tale and legend, often of a highly romantic character,—remains of a period in our Colonial history but little-known or understood by the general reader, especially from a social point of view. The transition from French to British rule left the old feudal system of land tenure undisturbed, and retained until a much later period many of the quaint usages of the past; and the seigniories were not infrequently acquired by early British colonists by purchase, and occasionally through the marriage tie.

The abandoned, but picturesquely situated Manor-House of Lanoraie, near the village of that name on the North shore of the St. Lawrence, seen many years since by the writer, and which has now entirely disappeared, suggested, with some fragments of legendary lore, the tale embodied in the following pages.