

Preface

NEARLY three-quarters of a century ago, a time-faded diary, written in the French language and the neat chirography of the early missionaries, was found in the garret of the old St. Aubin house of Detroit, where it had lain unvalued for fifty years.

The manuscript proved to be the story of the Siege of Detroit by the Indians under the Ottawa chief, Pontiac, told from day to day, with a close regard to detail.

Antiquarians suppose it to be from the pen of either the Jesuit, Father Potier of the Huron Mission, or the Recollet, Monsieur Bocquet, curé of the church of Ste. Anne.

The careful record became the basis of Francis Parkman's brilliant "History of the Conspiracy of Pontiac."

Now, fifty years after the publication of that great work, the writer of the present unpretending novel has sought in the old diary a background for this narrative of love, adventure, and war, into which are woven several historical incidents that have come to light since Parkman's day.

The author wishes it understood that, although she has read the latter historian with attention, and has occasionally quoted him, other quotations, which might be considered as from Parkman, are cited by him from the original manuscript.