

P R E F A C E

WHEN this series was projected it seemed likely that before its completion Newfoundland would have been absorbed into the Dominion of Canada ; and in 1896 the second edition of Judge Prowse's well-known history of Newfoundland assumed that this fate was imminent. Had these forecasts been fulfilled this volume would have been reduced to a size a little larger than that which has been allotted to those chapters of the Fifth Volume which deal with Nova Scotia. But Newfoundland has not been absorbed, and still remains *sui generis* and an exception to the rule in the British Empire ;—therefore this book will also be an exception to the other books in this series, and is framed on somewhat different lines and on a rather larger scale.

I do not wish to suggest that the apartness of Newfoundland will continue. Some people think that the island of the United Kingdom which lies nearest to America is destined to draw furthest away from its European sister-realms, and that similarly the island of America which lies nearest to Europe is destined to draw furthest away from its sister Dominions on the continent of America ; while other people think that the centrifugal forces of to-day will be succeeded by the cohesive forces of to-morrow, and that present tendencies are due to passing whims. I do not think at all about these things, but take facts as they are. The