

P R E F A C E

ON re-issuing this book, which was originally published in 1887, I may perhaps be excused for making some remarks as to its character and reception. In the first place, I would have it understood that what was true, let us say, of Winnipeg in 1884, needs now to be mentally revised by the reader. For things Transatlantic change marvellously even in a few short months, and since the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, on which I myself worked when it was still unfinished, the cities within its influence have altered beyond recognition. But this is only true of inhabited places, for not even a railroad can harm the infinite beauty of the mountains in British Columbia.

Though this volume is usually spoken of as a book of travel, I myself prefer to regard it as autobiography, seeing that it contains few references to spots not now well within the range of the mere tourist. It is primarily the story of peculiar personal experience, which many have endured but few recorded; and if it have any value