

P R E F A C E.

WITH the average public, the graphic articles of the press and its pictorial illustrations of *the last little war* eclipse in vivid though short-lived interest the lessons to be learnt by *the last great war*. The soldier-student, however, ponders over the latter long after the flood of special correspondence has subsided, and the mountain-peaks of the salient features appear distinctly. I cannot hope, however, that the vision of the prophet, for whom the dry bones of a great battle were shaken together, will be conjured up by the unpractised pen of a mere soldier. I attempt no such task; and, in selecting the title of "AN ARTILLERY RETROSPECT OF THE LAST GREAT WAR," make no pretension to the brilliant originality which was so marked a feature of the "*Retrospect of the War of 1866*," by the late lamented Captain May, who, in 1870, was killed in the ranks of that grand Prussian Army he had so faithfully served with sword and pen. His pamphlet startled the military mind of Europe. My aim is a very humble one. If to others I seem "to magnify mine office," pardon must be granted for sincerity in the, perhaps, imaginary importance of the duties assigned to me: the objects at stake assuming undue proportions to the mind of the last solitary British legionary left on the rock-crowning Citadel, with little but its glorious memories, obsolete war-material, and young soldiers around him; in the old town below, a city Corporation anxious to obtain ordnance property, and a population mainly devoted to square-timber during a short summer, and a sleep that resembles death during a long Arctic winter, in which these two evening-lectures on the last great war were given, at the request of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, who did me the honor of electing me a vice-President. Though well aware that artillery is not the principal arm, I limited my remarks to that branch which could, perhaps, be made more interesting to the members of the Society, and incite to professional study that