

PREFACE

All life and achievement is evolution; present wisdom comes from past experience, and present commercial prosperity has come only from past exertion. The deeds and motives of the men who have gone before have been instrumental in shaping the destinies of later communities and provinces. The development of a new country was at once a task and a privilege. It required courage, privation and sacrifice. Compare the present conditions of the people of Nova Scotia with what they were a century and a half ago. From a trackless wilderness it has come to be a center of prosperity and civilization, with millions of wealth, modern systems of railways, grand educational institutions, splendid and varied industries, thriving manufacturing and commercial centers. Can any thinking person be insensible to the fascination of the study which discloses the aspirations and efforts of the early pioneers, who laid such an excellent foundation upon which has been reared the great prosperity of today? To perpetuate the story of these people and to trace and record the social, political and industrial progress of the Province from its first inception is the function of the local historian. A sincere purpose to preserve facts that are deserving of perpetuation, and which unites the present to the past, is the motive of this publication. The work has been in the hands of an able writer, David Allison, M. A., LL. D., who has after much patient study and careful research, produced the most complete historical record of Nova Scotia ever offered to the public.

The object of this work is to supply the people of Nova Scotia with a readable, reliable, and reasonably comprehensive history of their Province during the past two hundred years. In general this history will be found to conform to the promises made in the prospectus, also to harmonise with the traditional conception of historical writing as the record of events affecting the body politic as a whole, rather than the fortunes of its individual members.

Respectively,

THE PUBLISHERS.