

## NOTES.

The preceding story lays no claim to value or accuracy in its descriptions of the North-West Territories. I have never seen that portion of our country ; and to endeavour to describe faithfully a region of which I have only a hearsay knowledge would be foolish.

I have, therefore, arranged the geography of the Territories to suit my own conveniences. I speak of places that no one will be able to find upon maps of the present or of the future. Wherever I want a valley or a swamp, I put the same ; and I have taken the same liberty with respect to hills or waterfalls. The birds, and in some instances the plants and flowers of the prairies, I have also made to order.

I present some fiction in my story, and a large array of fact. I do not feel bound, however, to state which is the fact, and which the fiction.

I have not aimed at dramatic excellence in this book. Change of scene, incident and colour are the points which I had in view. There is not any sham sentiment in the book.

I have introduced a few passages, with little change from a small volume, entitled "The Story of Louis Riel." These passages in no way effect the current of my story ; but as I thought that they had some merit, I had no compunction in diverting them to present uses. The most notable authors have done this sort of thing ; and chief amongst them I may mention Thackeray.

I beg likewise to say a word with respect to the book known as "The Story of Louis Riel." That volume has been quoted as history ; but it is largely fiction. There is no historic truth in the story therein written by me that Louis Riel conceived a passion for a beautiful girl named Marie ; and that he put Thomas Scott to death, because the maiden gave her heart to that young white man. I