

TO THE

HONOURABLE WILLIAM NAPIER.

MY DEAR SIR,

During my sojourn in England the past two years, circumstances have caused me to seek many interviews with you. And during those interviews I have always been impressed with the profound interest you manifested in all that concerned the welfare of the British North American Colonies, and the future development of the Hudson Bay Territory. You have done me the honour on one or two occasions to say that you thought a pamphlet, which would carry to the public a general idea of that whole territory, and impress upon the Government at home the importance of uniting by iron bands the Atlantic with the Pacific Ocean, would be a task pleasing to me, who had lived in America so many years. Acting upon that suggestion, I have compiled, from the best authorities, all the information which I thought bore upon the subject. You will find the work fragmentary and disjointed, but a merchant lays no claim to the dignity of a *littérateur*.

Faithfully yours,

THOS. RAWLINGS.

HAMPTON VILLA, PEMBROKE PLACE,  
London, February 16, 1865.