

INTRODUCTION

CARNAC is a return from the Far West to the Province which gave *Pierre and His People*, *The Seats of the Mighty*, *The Right of Way* and other novels and short stories of the French Canadian people. It has no touch of the West in it, yet the river and city life shown in it is in rare accord with the prairie life, for it belongs to the open air. There is the same energy and vivid being behind both, the same vigour and independence of character, the same Canadian fibre and feeling.

As in *The Seats of the Mighty* there is the clash of the individuals of two races, and the faults and virtues of both are seen; but in me there is no prejudice for either. I have always been a warm admirer of the French Canadian. He does not share our Imperial purposes, partly because he is a farmer and not an industrialist, and in other parts of the Dominion the farmer and the industrialists are more closely related. The industrialist always takes the wider view. He lives the wider life among his fellows. The French Canadian is slowly changing as industry takes hold of Quebec; he is becoming more steadily receptive of an Imperialism which is not territorial. It is due to the fact that in Great Britain we have had to go abroad for our food and our raw material, and our Empire has been built up largely by trade and not the sword. To the life of the Dominion the French Canadian gives temperament and he is, in his way, a more notably alert mentally and yet less advanced citizen than his English brother in Ontario or the Maritime Provinces; but he is as devoted to the soil of Canada as any United Empire Loyalist ever was.

In dealing with the French Canadian I am wholly sympathetic, and I see in him the vein of cultivated spirit which his origin gave him; and though he has in one sense—language—never been