

## P R E F A C E .

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PUBLIC attention is now more generally turned than it ever was before, toward the vast portion of the American continent which forms the subject of this Lecture, and there is moreover a general desire to obtain information as to the North-Western and Pacific Territories. The writer, therefore, cherishes the hope that the ensuing Lecture, which was delivered during the last winter before the Mercantile Library Association of Montreal, and afterwards before the Mechanics' Institute of Hemmingford, C. E., will meet a want, and may be found to present, in brief compass, a concise view of the leading features of interest connected with these countries.

A gleaner of other men's labours, he will be well rewarded for the time spent in preparation, if the perusal of the ensuing pages leads any reader to take a deeper interest in the advancement of so large and promising a portion of the British North American Empire, and to feel that we have a country of which we have reason to be proud.

Montreal, 31st March, 1859.