

PREFACE.

SOME years ago I had occasion to state that "Canada only needs to be known in order to be great." Events have since greatly strengthened my belief in the truth of these words and have impressed upon my mind the further fact that to be properly appreciated abroad a people should be familiar with its own past, proud of its own history, filled with confidence in its own resources and strength and conscious of its own national and material development.

Are Canadians in this position? It is to be feared that only a small minority realize the conditions mentioned. The great mass of the people look with admiration and deserved respect upon the splendid annals of the Mother-land, her wars upon sea and shore, her heroes in history and statecraft and literature and every branch of human progress, her wealth of civilized tradition and store of constitutional liberties. Others are impressed with the vast object-lesson of United States development and the thrilling records of its war for unity and freedom. To them all, it is to be feared, the four hundred years of history which the Dominion boasts is more or less a sweeping shadow upon the dial of time; a matter of comparative unimportance and little interest.

Yet that period includes within itself the most picturesque panorama of events in all the annals of the world. There lies within its shadow the figure of the wild, untamed savage moving over his native ground in a spirit of mingled ferocity and love of freedom; the black-robed Jesuit struggling against fate and the fierce will of the Iroquois in a spirit of sacrificial fire almost unequalled in the annals of martyrdom; the long procession of French gentlemen and adventurers, *voyageurs*