

A WORD TO THE OLDER PEOPLE.

I have been led by the partial success of "Rhymes of the Kings and Queens of England," to publish the present work. As far as it goes, it is reliable as a book of reference, and I hope it may create an appetite for Scottish History, a subject which is practically *terra incognita* to young Canadians, especially in the country. The attitude of young Americans and Canadians is one of extreme indifference to the nations and races from which they spring, and the noble struggles of those who have gone before them; "as if a man were author of himself," and not a bundle of peculiarities inherited from his ancestors, and modified by his present surroundings. I shall feel rewarded if I can do away with this freezing indifference, and make them sensible of the precious legacy of song and story, as well as more substantial benefits left us by our forefathers.

I am greatly indebted to the kindness of friends for many illustrations, and encouragement in my desire to make the important study of history more popular in Canada. I have taken pains to arrive at the truth before condensing it for this work. My authorities for the "Kings and Queens of Scotland" are, Pinkerton, Pitscottie, Buchanan, Robertson, Hume, Smollet, Macaulay, and Tytler. I have read carefully six lives of Mary Queen of Scots; two of Wallace, and one of Flora Macdonald, besides accounts in the Encyclopædias. My authorities for the Highland Clans are chiefly Pinkerton, Pitscottie, Reverend Thomas MacLachlan, Sir Walter Scott, Chambers, and Skeue.