

## PREFACE.

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The office-bearers of the Celtic Society of Montreal have great pleasure in sending a copy of this, the first volume of its Transactions, to the various members of the Society. The hope is strongly entertained, that the members of the Society will regard the appearance of this volume as a satisfactory indication, that the Society intends to carry on with diligence and faithfulness the purposes for which it was established.

It is stated in the Constitution "that the object of the Society shall be the promotion of the study of the Celtic Language and Literature." It occurred to those who were instrumental in founding the Society, that important services could be rendered to the Celts of Canada by a Society, which would endeavour to subserve the purpose of which mention has been made. So far as the earliest friends of the Society were aware, there was not in Canada at that time a Society which aimed largely, if not entirely, at the study of the Language and Literature of the Celt, and at the collection of whatever accurate information may still be gathered regarding the immigration and earliest settlement of the Celts in the several provinces of Canada.

It will be granted, with any amount of cheerfulness, that the other nationalities of Canada are to be commended for regarding with pride and satisfaction the benefits which they have conferred on our common country, as well as for cherishing a great veneration for their respective languages and traditions. The Celtic element in the population of Canada has always been important and influential. Celts have performed severe labour in cutting down the primeval forests of Canada, and in making material contributions to the development of the varied resources of our country. Celts have been successful in rising to positions of eminence in the various professions and industries of Canada. As members of the Governments and Legislatures of the Dominion; as professors in our Colleges and Universities; as merchants of extensive business and com-