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PREFACE.

THIS book is not merely a description of the adventures of a party of men who crossed the plains of British North America (known then as the Hudson's Bay Territory) in 1862, but it is intended to show the possibilities of that vast region, for many years so little known to the civilized world, and scarcely less a *terra incognita* to the Canadian Government and people.

Since this journey was accomplished many wonderful changes have taken place, many curious events have come to pass. From the Atlantic on the east to the Pacific on the west the Canadian Pacific Railway is stretched; and to-day the perilous journey, which once occupied five and a half months, can be