

PREFACE.

THE poems, in this volume, were all written since August 1914, and hence, were more or less influenced by the stirring events of the world-wide struggle which is still going on, while the most of the Lyrics and Sonnets owe their inspiration to it directly. Therefore, one would think that the present would be an opportune time for their publication. Knowing but too well, dear reader, the many calls which the war has made upon your purse, I had quite made up my mind to defer the publication of this volume until after the war, but as the end of the death struggle between the forces of Light and Darkness seems yet afar off, I have yielded to the advice of my friends, and hereby solicit your patronage for "Chebucto and Other Poems." The scenes of the longer poems are all laid in our native Nova Scotia, and therefore, you should have a personal interest in them, while the ones relating to the war, should for that reason itself appeal to you. I have added some explanatory notes on the Micmac terms used in "Chebucto" and Petoobok. To those sensitive souls, to whom a grammatical error is like the thrust of a bayonet, I wish to say, at the outset, that I have availed myself of the Poet's privilege, and have used some double comparatives, etc., whenever the metre required their use. Of course, I have done so very sparingly, but, in a contest between the scholar and the muse, the