

PREFACE

our own grandparents! Perhaps many Canadians can recall the time when their grandfathers took them upon their knees and delighted to tell of their boyhood days in old Kilkenny, of the beauties of the lakes of Killarney, or of the glories of the land of the heather; and very often they spoke Gaelic better than English; but to-day these sons of Canada know but little of the language of their ancestors—they all speak English.

So it will be with the Canadian descendants of the Bohemian, the Hungarian, the Russian, the Pole, the German, or the Assyrian immigrants who have come to settle here. It should never be expected that the older people will become "true Canadians," and no attempt should be made to do what is an impossibility. It is possible, of course, as will be pointed out in this volume, to assist them in gaining a knowledge of our language, laws, and government; but it will be practically impossible to wean them away from many of the habits and customs of their native lands; but there is an important duty to perform in seeing that the children of these newcomers are given every opportunity to receive proper training for intelligent citizenship. They, along with those who enter our country while still quite young, are the material upon which Canadians as nation-builders must work. They are the "New-Canadians," about whose education this volume is chiefly concerned. In order better to understand these people, it will be the writer's