

contain several tales of a by-gone age, whose recital has often brought tears to humble eyes and which may yet have a charm for a more general and critical audience. He whom they interest not, has no love for local history, nor the simple legends which lend a fascination and glow of romance to any locality, and which make the sympathetic hearer loiter about a hallowed spot with feelings no ordinary man of the world can understand.

The preservation of the stories of the ill-fated relative of the Empress Eugénie, the mysterious Margaret Floyer and the French Governor, the tragic death of poor Mary Russell, the sad fates of the Meagher and Jones children, and the two Smiths, together with the accounts of other minor occurrences, is owing, doubtless, to the pen of Mrs. Lawson, who when but a girl had often listened with rare attention to their recital during the long winter evenings at Maroon Hall. These tales possibly constitute the *pièce de résistance* of the present book, and it was to a great extent their presence which first suggested to me the desirability of publication.

In preparing the history for the press, I have endeavoured to revise the manuscript in the manner in which the author herself no doubt would have done before finally committing it to the printer. An attempt has been made, as far as lay in my power, to verify the whole matter, especially the dates. Where the latter were often not mentioned, I have made great efforts to obtain them, and if unquestionable, they have been inserted directly in the text. The greatest caution, however, has been exercised in doing this, and where doubt existed, the dates have been usually placed in the footnotes. These searches have often cost actually days of diligent investigation, the result of which merely appears as a few figures. The satisfaction, however, of any additional exactness which might be so obtained, is alone sufficient reward for all such trouble. With still more time, many other unmentioned dates and additional information could have been obtained.

I have striven in every way, however, conscientiously to retain inviolable the author's work, save where faithfulness to truth or the principles of style rendered it unquestionably desirable to make slight changes. Such changes would have