

have neither literary nor financial responsibility, to suggest changes in the plan of such a work. But the same persons might, in a different position, fail to act on their own suggestions. To those who may feel disappointed, because selections are not made from their poetry, I have no apology to offer. An immense quantity of verse, much of it of high merit, has passed under my notice. Financial reasons compelled me to limit the size of the volume. I could not put in everything that I approved of. I have made a selection, according to the best of my judgment, without partiality, or sectional feeling of any kind. If any are dissatisfied with me, I am sorry ; but, conscious of the integrity of my motives, I have nothing to regret. Nearly all the pieces in this volume are published by special permission of the authors ; and many of them have never been published before.

My warmest thanks are due to the authors for the courtesy and liberality with which, without exception, they placed their poems at my disposal ; and to editors of newspapers throughout the country for their friendly notice of my project. They are also due to the subscribers—many of whom I recognize as personal friends—for their confidence and patronage, by which I have been encouraged to place the work before the public. Should it secure their approbation, and be instrumental in awakening a more extensive interest in the Poets and Poetry of our beloved country, my humble labors will be amply rewarded.

ST. JOHNS, CANADA EAST, Jan., 1864.