

## PREFACE

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It is now seventy years since the story of pioneer life was begun in Perth County by Sebastian Fryfogle in South Easthope. During that period such marvellous changes have taken place as the most sanguine backwoodsman could have had no conception of. To follow the foot-prints of progress during that three score and ten years, distinguishing those events which have culminated in our present conditions, is surely a theme worthy our highest aspirations. In my efforts at gathering up and describing scenes and circumstances, which lie along our ever-changing prospect, I feel impressed with a sense of unworthiness to discharge my self-imposed duty. The responsibility of dealing with events and characters of men who have laid as on a sure foundation the destiny of this county has overwhelmed me with fear that I might fail in doing justice to all.

A mass of material had to be sought out, scrutinized, and such evidences (as to historical value) selected and arranged as far as possible in chronological order, so as to give effect to the whole, which seemed an almost impossible task. I may be permitted to say, however, that whatever my shortcomings may be, and they are many; whatever my inability as a writer may be, and it is great; no one, I trust, will ever charge me with insincerity or unfaithfulness in prosecuting this important work. In that great realm of history, where men's motives must be judged largely by their actions, it is a solemn responsibility resting on the single mind of the historian that no unjust reflections be made on those whose lips are forever closed in everlasting silence.

In preparing and compiling this work every precaution has been taken to secure accuracy in its details, as being essential to con-