

## P R E F A C E .

**T**HIS book contains the History of Canada, from the date of the first arrival of Europeans in the St. Lawrence, down to the date of the Confederation of the British North American Provinces, in 1867.

It has been prepared in order to supply an acknowledged want—that of a practically useful school text-book, containing, in moderate compass, the whole history, brought up to the present day, and one not unsuitable for the common use of the youth of the mixed communities composing the population of the Dominion.

To answer the ends in view, it has been deemed necessary to present the subject in the form of a continuous narrative, divided into four parts, each including a distinct and important period of time.

In the preparation of the work, a judicious arrangement of details, and the means of exciting and sustaining interest, have been thought as necessary to be secured as accuracy—the quality of accuracy, although indispensable, by no means embracing all the requirements of a historical text-book.

It may be remarked, that most of the English writers on Canadian history have either ignored, or greatly underrated, the importance of its earlier portions, relating to the course of events before the cession of the colony to England, in 1763. Without presuming to allege that the history of the last 100 years is less important, or less necessary to be studied, than that of the previous 229 years, it may be affirmed that such a