
PREFACE

¶ The importance of placing in book form biographical history—both for its immediate worth and for its value to coming generations—is admitted by all thinking people; and within the past decade there has been a growing interest in this commendable means of perpetuating biography and family genealogy.

¶ That the public should avail itself of the privileges afforded by a work of this nature needs no assertion at our hands. Cicero, the Roman orator and philosopher, has said that “for a man to be ignorant of what happened before his birth is to be always a child.” Carlyle says “there is no life of a man faithfully recorded, but is a heroic poem of its sort, rhymed or unrhymed.” Emerson substantially says the history of any country resolves itself into the biographies of its stout, earnest, progressive and representative citizens. No truths are more obvious. This medium, then, serves more than a single purpose; while it perpetuates biography and family genealogy, it records history, much of which would be preserved in no other way.

¶ In presenting the Commemorative Biographical Record to its patrons, the publishers have to acknowledge, with gratitude, the encouragement and support their enterprise has received, and the willing assistance rendered in enabling them to surmount the many unforeseen obstacles to be met with in the production of a work of this character. In nearly every instance the material composing the sketches was gathered from those immediately interested, and then submitted in type-written form for correction and revision. The volume, which is one of generous amplitude, is placed in the hands of the public with the belief that it will be found a valuable addition to the library, as well as an invaluable contribution to the historical literature of the Province of Ontario.

THE PUBLISHERS.