

Contents

CHAPTER I

THE PASSING OF THE STAGE-COACH

PAGE

- Rough outline of the physical and social condition of Canada when our narrative begins—The early pioneer days drawing to a close—Passing of the old stage-coach with its "shrill echoing horn"—Population and trade of Canada in 1851—Wonderful transformation of the country in half a century—It recalls visions of "Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp".... 19

CHAPTER II

DAWN OF THE RAILROAD ERA

- Dawn of the railroad era—Hon. Francis Hincks, Prime Minister, visits Great Britain—Inception of Canadian railways—William Jackson, M.P., W. L. Betts, M.P., and Robert Stephenson, M.P., the great engineer, visit Canada—Railway and political magnates on their travels—Brightening prospects of Canada—Effects of the Crimean War and the Reciprocity Treaty—Extraordinary commercial and financial "boom"—Its rise, expansion and collapse—Fortunes made and lost in a day..... 24

CHAPTER III

EARLY STRUGGLES FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

- Early struggles for Responsible Government—Sir Charles Metcalfe's opposition thereto—Its patriotic vindication by Messrs. Baldwin and Lafontaine—Cancer compels Governor Metcalfe to resign—Arrival of Lord Elgin—Responsible Government triumphantly sustained in 1848—The Rebellion Losses Bill—Burning of the Parliament Buildings in Montreal—The Hincks-Morin Ministry accedes to power—Difficult questions dividing political parties—Canadian statesmen prove equal to the occasion 30