

## FOREWORD

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It is due to the Publishers of this History to state that in its preparation they left the author free to use his own judgment as to its precise scope and plan. For these, as much as for the actual execution of the work, he acknowledges his entire responsibility.

The narrative closes at the constitutional reorganization of Nova Scotia under the British North American Act in 1867. The original precast included a sketch of the purely domestic or Provincial as distinguished from the Federal issues and events belonging to the period subsequent to Confederation and extending down to a comparatively recent date. This plan was dropped, not because interesting and important material for such use was lacking, but for other reasons. Doubts arose as to whether the time for its successful historical treatment had yet arrived. The writer who happens to have been contemporary with the events which he relates clearly has some advantages in his favor. Equally plain, however, are the disadvantages under which he labors. Everyone is not a Justin McCarthy, to narrate dispassionately the events of his "Own Times." Besides, so prominent a part in the Federal drama was often played by Canadian statesmen, who were Nova Scotians, too, that it would often be difficult to determine to which side of the line between re-Dominion and Province, a given issue or event belongs. Much Canadian history would be sure to work its way into the Nova Scotian sketches.

It must be remembered that these humble volumes are intended for the "general reader," who perhaps may find as much to interest him in studies of Champlain and Mascarene, of Archibald and Howe, as he would have derived from ever so copious citations from successive Canada Year Books.

There is no disposition to shield the work in advance from charges sure to be brought against it—and justly so—of bad perspective and monstrous disproportion. It is a relief, however, to find that the last *State History*<sup>1</sup> coming under notice, though it tells the story of the Empire State from the time of the earliest Dutch settlements to the present day, devotes fully three-fourths of its space to the colonial and revolutionary periods.

THE AUTHOR.

<sup>1</sup>*History of the State of New York*, by Professor Charles F. Horne, of the College of the City of New York.