

INTRODUCTION

For a quarter of a century Canada has paced with giant stride the path of intellectual and material progress. Thanks to the men of the generation on which devolved the difficult task of erecting it, the Canadian Confederation has become strengthened more and more in proportion as time has allowed the definition of its politics and the accomplishment of those colossal enterprises which have attracted the attention of the world. To-day, after but twenty-five years, our country occupies the first colonial place of the globe. It is not, then, amiss to present, in a work easily accessible to the public, some of the great figures which give lustre to the present time. Seeing thus grouped these statesmen, these *savants*, these men of letters, these kings of finance and industry, who, each in his own sphere, have laboured for the glory of our country, our fellow-countrymen will understand better the elements of cohesion which bind us and the duty incumbent on all to strengthen them, instead of weakening them either by indifference or by ignorance.

This gallery will contain portraits of but a limited number of those who are entitled to a place in it. The order in which they will appear is neither an order of merit nor of precedence. On the contrary, the aim of the management is to mingle them so as to avoid monotony.

The smaller provinces, so proud in their collective strength, so little known and appreciated in certain parts of the Confederation, will have their share in this publication, destined to be spread throughout Canada. Their illustrious sons will there appear as it were in solemn protest against the indifference in which they are held in some quarters.

The passions of party, political entanglements, or the violence of strife, too often exhibit men in a false light. Almost invariably,