

## PREFACE.

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It may not be out of place here, to remark that the following papers written by the author in his capacity of journalist, were published in the Quebec Mercury during a late crisis at Quebec in connection with that right cherished by every freeman, the "liberty of speech." As will be patent to the reader, they were (with the exception of the first) mainly suggested by the inquisitorial action of several Members at their seats in the Town Council, in calling to account the Chief Magistrate of the City for his action in a matter wherein he will undoubtedly be approved and sustained by all who know and appreciate the spirit of British institutions. The manner in which this seemingly local topic concerns the British Inhabitants throughout Lower Canada, will readily occur to the reflective mind on connecting the action of these worthy councilmen with several notorious events of preceding years, on record in the Courts of Quebec and Montreal, and which have from time to time been freely commented on by the Press of the entire country, but the gravity of whose bearing,—taken into consideration along with the action of various officials at different periods,—cannot allow the occurrences in question to be sunk in oblivion by the true politician and lover of his fellow countrymen.

At the earnest and repeated solicitation of a few leading citizens, these papers are now brought together and printed in pamphlet form for more extended circulation, to the end that the rights of the sufferers may be vindicated and, if need be, that attention be directed to the subject in the mother country where with shame be it acknowledged, our real position is sadly ignored by those who call themselves our rulers.

J. H. WILLAN.