

PREFACE.

MY object in compiling this volume has been to rescue from oblivion some of the floating pieces of Canadian authorship worthy of preservation in a more permanent form ; and to direct the attention of my fellow-countrymen to the claims of Canadian poetry. The fact that I entered on an untrodden path, without any way-marks to guide me, necessarily caused me a vast amount of labor, and an extensive correspondence ; as, in many instances, both poets and poetry had to be discovered by special research. This will, I hope, be duly considered by readers in judging of the work, should it be found less perfect than they had anticipated.

As I do not wish to be judged by a wrong standard, I must remind my readers that this is not "a work on the Poets and Poetry of Canada." Such a work may be highly desirable and necessary ; and there is valuable material, in the poetic effusions of the past fifty years, with which to enrich such a work. But this collection makes no pretension to such a character : it is simply "SELECTIONS FROM CANADIAN POETS." With the hope of enhancing the interest and usefulness of the work, I have subjoined occasional brief notes ; but the plan and scope of the work precluded any lengthy biographical sketches. It is easy for persons who