

INTRODUCTION

FOR the period covered by this volume there are so many sources of information that it is difficult to make a selection limited to the space available.

Pictorial records especially are numerous. From the time of the siege of Quebec a succession of officers of the British army and navy stationed in Canada have left us drawings of the scenery, the settlements and the life of the new colony. Many of these were engraved and published as prints in England. Civilian authors and artists also visited the country and wrote and illustrated books which give much information concerning the period. Portrait painters from the old land and the United States toured the country or established themselves in the towns and depicted the likenesses of the men and women of the time.

Besides these pictorial documents, numerous buildings, public and domestic, still survive, though many of the earliest structures, being of wood, have disappeared through decay or from fire. Much furniture and a considerable number of other physical objects, dating from this period, such as costumes, weapons, vehicles, tools and vessels, are to be found in museums and in private houses.

In this period, too, the territory to be covered grows more extensive. The country was explored from coast to coast and to the Arctic, and the fur-trader, the missionary and the settler penetrated into hitherto unknown regions.

Over so wide a field it is manifestly impossible in a small volume to furnish anything like a complete