

## PREFACE.

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THE story to be related by me, at the request of various friends, is one marked by few uncommon incidents and fewer extraordinary events. It tells somewhat of the social advancement of Upper Canada, and much more of its political progress, and I have endeavored to portray, candidly and faithfully, some of the leading occurrences of the past sixty years in that direction. In that time I have witnessed the new growth of an old Province, now rejuvenated and well on its way to manhood and nationality.

To do this with a knowledge that men are still living, or have but lately passed from the scene, under and largely by whom these changes have been effected, is to attempt a difficult task. It is to write, to some extent at least, with fettered hands, and to be tempted to almost beg a question when outspokenness is preferable.

Feeling, as I do, that every man's life has in it that which, simply retold, has interest, in some respect or other, for many men of similar taste, age or pursuit, I