

which our city and country have witnessed, a century counts for much ; and most readers will probably admit that it would be a pity that the events recorded and the persons described in these pages, should have been altogether forgotten.

I do not expect every reader to peruse the entire volume. Some will value it on account of the original documents bearing on the history of the country which it contains, and which it was thought desirable to make public. Others will pass these parts by without ever glancing at them. To Montreal readers, generally, the brief sketches of former well-known citizens, herein presented, will probably be the most attractive feature of the book ; but even in this part of it, persons outside the city may take an interest, as many of those whose careers are sketched, belonged to Canada at large, as well as to Montreal. I cannot pretend to faultless accuracy in these brief narratives. It would be scarcely possible to have avoided mistakes in giving details of the lives of several hundred persons ; but I can at least claim to have left unused no sources of information regarding them that I knew to be within my reach, and I hope that these biographies will be found, in the main, reliable. My function has been to ascertain facts, to show their mutual relations, and interpret them aright if possible. I am not to be held responsible for the facts themselves, but only for the manner of narrating them. Many things happened in connection with the old church which one could wish had never come to pass ; but they were not to be undone by being suppressed. It is the business of the historian not to describe events as they