

PREFACE.

In reprinting in a cheap and convenient form the original Novels and Novellettes written for the *Canadian Illustrated News*, the publisher hopes to meet with a hearty support from the reading community of Canada. The moderate price at which these volumes are offered to the public puts them on a fair footing to compete with the light literature of other countries; and their style and incident, though neither so extravagant nor sensational, give a better reflex of the literary taste of the Dominion.

Of the five stories which make up the present volume, three are interwoven with stirring events in Canadian history, each marking a different period and dealing with widely different incidents: The writers are all Canadians and as such have some claim to the sympathy and patronage of our people, as the building up of a national literature is an achievement of great importance to the future of any country, and one which, we regret to say, in its early stages generally gives but small reward to the faithful and devoted toilers in the work. In this respect, Canada has heretofore been no exception; but it is hoped that now, when it has so far progressed in wealth, intelligence and refinement, and when the national spirit is evoked in the cause of every mechanical industry, the labours of the *littérateur* will not be neglected.

In this hope the publisher launches this little volume, and in proportion to its success will he be induced to follow it with others, and in turn to give greater encouragement to Canadian authors.

Montreal, July 1871.