

PREFACE

but the striking personal characteristics of these two eminent statesmen possess deep and growing interest. And when the union between Upper and Lower Canada became absolutely unworkable—when deadlock became king—and Mr. Brown and Mr. Macdonald trampled their personal antipathies in the dust and joined hands in the Coalition Government of 1864 to extricate their country from its dangers and bring about Confederation, they set an example of patriotic statesmanship and self-abnegation sometimes portrayed in political romance, but seldom met with in the sober annals of every-day politics.

Whilst not overlooking important events in Great Britain and the United States, and using an author's prerogative in expressing opinions wise and otherwise, one of my chief aims has been to give a succinct account of the stirring political events in the late Province of Canada which ultimately led to the union of British North America, under the name of the Dominion of Canada—in other words, to tell the story of our great Canadian Confederation.

With thanks to James Bain, D.C.L., of Toronto Public Library, Avern Pardoe, Legislative Librarian, and George Johnson, F.S.S., Ottawa, for courtesies extended, I submit this volume in the confident hope that my generous readers (to adapt a familiar couplet) will

“ Be to my virtues very kind ;
Be to my faults a little blind.”

JAMES YOUNG.

“ THORNHILL,” GALT,
August 15th, 1902.