

PREFACE.

Kind friends (for as such I shall consider all those who may read this little volume) perhaps a few words in the way of an explanation may not be out of place. The author of this little book was "raised" in the far northern district of Parry Sound; his father, the writer of this preface, being one of the pioneer settlers of one of its first settled townships, McKellar, the garden township of the district, and which for material advancement and rapid improvement will compare favourably with the most favoured Townships of the Dominion; a condition of things not altogether owing to the natural advantages it possesses but to the praiseworthy habits of its industrious inhabitants, ably aided by the energy, enterprise and business tact and talents of Messrs. S. & J. Armstrong, with the valuable assistance of their brother Robert and Henry, founders, and in great parts proprietors of the beautiful and beautifully located village of McKellar. When I first saw the site of this village in 1870 there was only a single house upon it, now there are two first-class hotels that would be a credit to any town on the line of the Northern Railway. In conclusion, I am not quite certain, but that I ought to apologise for publishing this little volume, but every created thing must have, or must have had, a beginning, and nothing attempted nothing done. The material of which this volume consists are amply sufficient for a first venture, and if it is successful (as I hope it will be) expect to hear from us again. Yes, kind friends, for I am myself a verse maker and rhyme writer, yet I have not attempted to alter a single line in the book as I do not wish to interfere in any way with its originality. Mr. Morton has kindly and courteously proposed to correct the spelling, which, owing to the limited education of the author, was not good, the same reason and the extreme youthfulness of the writer, the book being nearly all written in his 14th and 15th year, must excuse defects of style and thought.

JAMES ELLIOTT.

Toronto, Sept. 22nd, 1880.