PREFATORY NOTE.

of Canada, and as such has duties and obligations to discharge within the Dominion and Province, but that he is also a citizen of the greatest and noblest empire that the world has ever seen. Consequently one of the most important parts of this book is devoted to a brief account of the onerous functions of the sovereign, who, through her national councils, executive and legislative, administers the affairs of Great Britain and Ireland, and of her many colonies and dependencies. The third part describes the nature and methods of the general government of the Dominion; the fourth part deals with the powers of the several provincial authorities that compose the federal union, and with the organization and procedure of the courts of law; the fifth part outlines the working of the municipal system, in which all classes of citizens should be so deeply interested; the sixth part indicates the manner in which our public schools are administered by the government and people in every province; the seventh part briefly explains the mode in which the territorial districts of the Northwest are governed before they have reached the dignity of provinces in the full possession of responsible government. In the Appendix I give the text of the constitution or British North America Act of 1867, and amending acts in full. At the end of each Part of the volume I add references to such authorities as will be most useful to those persons who wish to go thoroughly into the study of institutions.*

In closing the book I say a few words with respect to the duties and responsibilities that devolve upon all classes of Canadians as citizens of a self-governing country. Thesewords are very inadequate when we consider the wide scope

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^{*} Now placed together at p. 311.