PREFACE.

No one can be more conscious than the speaker himself of the deficiencies of every kind to be found in these speeches; they were sometimes made at short notice sometimes ill-reported, and seldom corrected for the press: if, notwithstanding, they should be found to possess any saving interest, it can only be attributed to the fact that they form a tolerably consecutive running commentary, on the recent course of political opinion in the British Provinces; on the main events of the American civil war, and on the new relations arising for the Provinces out of those events; and, finally, on the efforts which have been made, especially during the last few years, to bring about the establishment of "a new Nationality," on monarchical principles, in British-America.

MONTREAL, April 13th, 1865.

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