

## PREFACE.

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At the suggestion of the Right Reverend Bishop, coupled with the urgent request of those deeply interested, we give a brief history of St. Mary's Parish, Hesson, Ontario.

The illustrations, which meet the eye on every page, have been obtained with much labor and expense, while the subject-matter had to be entirely drawn from the memories of the past. Bearing these facts in mind, the reader will readily understand the herculean task of the writer.

The work was prepared, and the printer's proofs read to the people for correction and further information. This was repeated until the chaff was separated from the wheat, which leaves the work robbed of its original style. With this apology, we graciously beg the reader to be neither censorious nor hypercritical, but to drink in the facts, while his imagination may feast on the past.

### THE AUTHOR.

"The first Law of History is to dread uttering falsehood; the next, not to fear stating the truth; lastly, that the historian's writings should be open to no suspicion of partiality or of animosity." — *Leo XIII.*