

THE
CAUSE AND COMMENCEMENT OF THE WAR
BETWEEN
GREAT BRITAIN AND AMERICA IN 1812.

READ BEFORE THE LITERARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF
QUEBEC ON THE 23RD DECEMBER, 1879,

BY
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ASSOCIATE MEMBER.

It would not be easy for me to say a few words on "The cause and commencement of the war between Great Britain and America in 1812," which would be interesting to you, without first glancing at the contemporary history of the United States. I shall therefore refer to the history of the rise of the Republic as it has been told by American and other authors; to its position as an independent neutral power during the Napoleonic wars; to the steps that were taken by the Government of Great Britain to protect themselves from interference by preventing commercial intercourse between the States and the enemies of England; to the right of search which they insisted upon for British seamen on American ships; to the complications which grew out of the exercise of that right—which led to hostilities, and to the war of 1812, in which Canada took a prominent part as a belligerent power. It will readily occur to you that I cannot give the whole of this programme in one lecture; but I shall go as far as time will permit, without, I trust, taxing your patience too severely.