

Preface

THE historical personages more or less famous who are portrayed in this romance are limned from old portraits and the descriptions of their contemporaries. The hero and heroine are composite sketches and represent distinguishing traits of prominent families of the Canada frontier at the beginning of the nineteenth century. The young Scotch Highlander is not to be confounded with another Captain Muir, named among General Proctor's subalterns.

If the incidents of Indian adventure recorded in these pages seem wild or improbable to the reader whose environment is remote from such scenes, they were only too real on the shores of the Detroit River and in the Maumee Valley, less than a hundred years ago. The instances of feminine courage are drawn from the experience of one heroic woman. The author has been brought into close touch with the customs and local characters of the time, and sympathy with its spirit through the free access she has had to the manuscript letters, diaries, public and genealogical documents in the rare and extensive library of Mr. Clarence M. Burton; also, through