Foreword

The Centre for Editing Early Canadian Texts (CEECT) at Carleton University was established to prepare for publication scholarly editions of major works of early English-Canadian prose that were either out of print or available only in corrupt reprints. Ten of these editions, Frances Brooke's *The History of Emily Montague*, Catharine Parr Traill's *Canadian Crusoes*, James De Mille's *A Strange Manuscript Found in a Copper Cylinder*, John Richardson's *Wacousta*, Susanna Moodie's *Roughing It in the Bush*, Rosanna Leprohon's *Antoinette De Mirecourt*, Thomas McCulloch's *The Mephibosheth* *Stepsure Letters*, Julia Catherine Beckwith Hart's *St. Ursula's Convent*, John Richardson's *The Canadian Brothers*, and Thomas Chandler Haliburton's *The Clockmaker, Series One, Two, and Three*, have been published. One other, thanks to funding from Carleton University and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, is being prepared. Catharine Parr Traill's *The Backwoods of Canada*, the epistolary narrative that helped to place rural Ontario on the literary map, is the eleventh volume in the CEECT series.

In the preparation of these editions advice and guidance have been sought from a broad range of international scholarship, and contemporary principles and procedures for the scholarly editing of literary texts have been followed. These principles and procedures have been adapted to suit the special circumstances of Canadian literary scholarship and the particular needs of each of the works in the CEECT series.

The text of each scholarly edition in this series has been critically established after the history of the composition and first publication of the work has been researched and its versions analysed and compared. The critical text is clear, with only authorial notes, if any, appearing in the body of the book. Each of these editions also has an editor's introduction with a separate section on the text,
and, as concluding apparatus, explanatory notes, a description of
the copy-text and, when relevant, of other authoritative versions,
a list of published versions of the work, a record of emendations
made to the copy-text, a list of line-end hyphenated compounds in
the copy-text as they are resolved in the CEECT edition, and a list
of line-end hyphenated compounds in the CEECT edition as they
should be resolved in quotations from it. An historical collation
is included when more than one version has authority, and, as
necessary, appendices containing material directly relevant to the
text.

In the preparation of all these CEECT editions for publication,
identical procedures, in so far as the particular history of each
work allowed, have been followed. An attempt has been made to
find and analyse every unpublished version of the work known
to exist. At least five copies of each published version that was
a possible choice for copy-text have been examined, as have at
least three copies of each of the other published versions that the
author might have revised. Every published version of the work has
been subjected to as thorough a bibliographical study as possible.
All the known information about the printing and publication of
each work has been gathered, and the printed versions of each
have been subjected to collations of various kinds. Specialists from
Carleton University's Computing and Communications Services
have developed programs to help in the proofreading and
comparison of texts, to perform word-searches, and to compile
and store much of the information for the concluding apparatus.
The edited text has been proofread against its copy-text at all
appropriate stages.