

**A HISTORY OF ENGLISH-
CANADIAN LITERATURE TO THE
CONFEDERATION: ITS RELATION
TO THE LITERATURE OF GREAT
BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES**

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A history of English-Canadian literature to the confederation: its relation to the literature of Great Britain and the United States by Ray Palmer Baker

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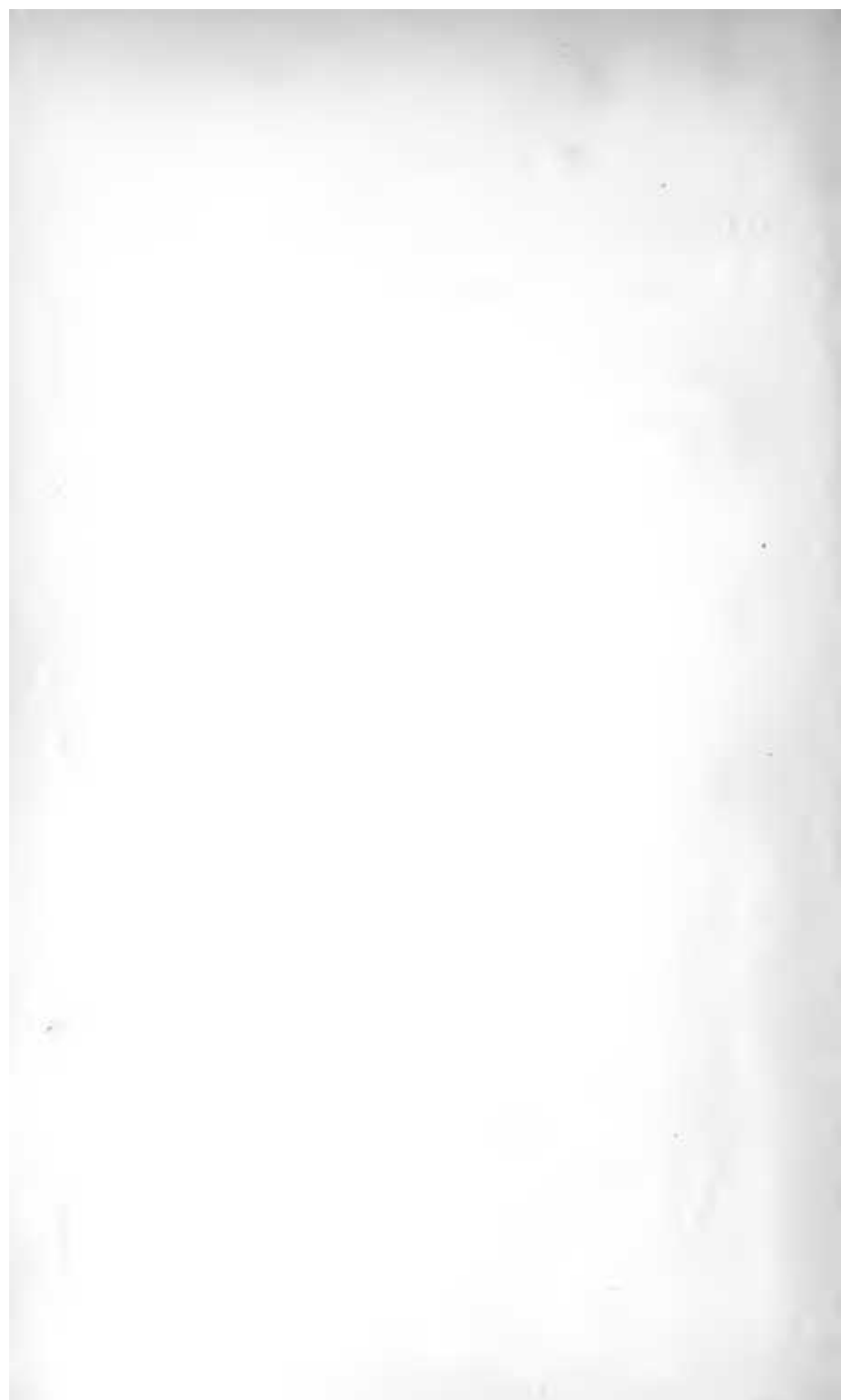
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Its Relation to the Literature of Great Britain
and the United States

BY

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TO MY MOTHER



PREFACE

MOST of the material in this volume was collected for a doctoral dissertation presented at Harvard University shortly after the beginning of the Great War. A little later it was recast for the Semicentennial of the Confederation. Since the reasons for the participation of Canada in the War were then little understood in the United States, and the reasons for the non-participation of the United States as little understood in Canada, publication of a study demanding mutual tolerance and respect seemed singularly inopportune. Now that misunderstanding has been dissipated by the intervention of the Republic, there appears to be no further cause for delay.

To meet the needs of the moment I have therefore prepared this abstract. Aside from the omission of many biographical details and critical observations, and the addition of a few references to the developments of the War, the text is practically that of the first draft. That the events of the last five years have substantiated most of my conclusions leads me to hope that the aim with which the work was undertaken may not be entirely unfulfilled. At any rate, I trust that the volume may provide an adequate background for the series to which it is an introduction; that it may deepen, in Canada, the growing interest in the beginnings of its literature; that it may emphasize, in the United States, the emergence of

Canadian nationality, and that it may reënforce, in Great Britain, the principles which have made possible a Britannic Alliance. Above all, I trust that it may show the intellectual continuity of the English-speaking peoples and the fact that, in spite of their differences, they are unescapably one.

In its preparation I have tried to overlook nothing of promise or importance. If I have included anything that seems trivial, it is because I am anxious to spare others the difficulties I have had to overcome. Where expense has not been prohibitive, I have gone to the original sources. In many cases I have been guided to them by the monographs available. Of these I am indebted chiefly to the *Transactions* of the Royal Society of Canada; to the *Collections* of the Nova Scotia Historical Society; to the *Papers and Records* of the Ontario Historical Society; to the publications of the Victoria University Library, of the Haliburton Society, and of the Ontario Historical Publishing Company. Since I have been unable to verify all the dates, and since even the sketches in the *Dictionary of National Biography* are inaccurate, a few errors will doubtless be found. To those who may point them out I shall be grateful.

My gratitude is due also to those who have aided me in my work: to the assistants at the Toronto Public Library, the Boston Public Library, and the Harvard College Library; to the librarians of the Fisher Memorial Library, the Halifax Citizens' Library, the Nova Scotia Legislative Library, the St. John Public Library, and the Acadia University Library; to the Dominion