

**THE MAKING OF THE  
CANADIAN WEST, BEING  
THE REMINISCENCES OF  
AN EYEWITNESS**

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The making of the Canadian West, being the reminiscences of an eyewitness by R. G. MacBeth

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**R. G. MACBETH**

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LORD STRATHCONA AND MOUNT ROYAL

*(Donald A. Smith).*

THE MAKING OF THE  
CANADIAN WEST

BEING THE

REMINISCENCES OF AN EYE-WITNESS.

BY

REV. R. G. MACBETH, M.A.,

*Pastor of Augustine Church, Winnipeg; Author of "The Selkirk Settlers  
in Real Life," etc.*

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## PREFACE.

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WHEN the few short papers on the first colony in the North-West were put into book-form, under the title of "The Selkirk Settlers in Real Life," the book received a welcome far beyond its intrinsic deserts, because it gave some idea of how the early settlers lived in their homes rather than the ordinary history of contemporary events. Letters received from readers far and near, as well as verbal communications, have given me to feel that people are anxious to get glimpses of the moving actors in the human drama as an aid to understanding the events commonly known as the history of the country.

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Hence, many who took deep interest in the simple story of the early colony on the Red River, were anxious that a record of the life succeeding those early days should be written by some one who was an eye-witness of the change from the old life to the new, as well as of the subsequent stirring events in the formative period of Western history. In answer to these requests, and with a desire to preserve a life-story of the land in which I was born and in which I have thus far spent my life, these chapters have been written. I have had neither the time nor the desire to write a compendium of all the events that have transpired in the country, nor to give minute details of all I have mentioned. I have sought rather to dwell upon men and events only so far as a record of them seemed to me to be relevant to my purpose, as expressed in the title of this book. I have simply gone back and lived through the past again, seeing the faces and hearing the voices

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of other days, and what I have seen and heard I have herein written.

It is hoped that the present work will give a sufficiently succinct account of the progress of the country through its formative stages, and at the same time have enough of personal reminiscence about it to make the dry bones of history more palatable to the taste of the ordinary reader than they might otherwise be.

Should it appear to some that certain things they deem of importance have been omitted, such will kindly bear in mind the scope this book contemplates, and they can fill out the incompleteness by themselves taking up the pen and traversing fields which this work does not occupy. It is in such way after all that a complete history is secured, for every man has his own peculiar point of view, if he has realized the meaning of individuality. The Canadian West has little more than begun a great history.

We who have lived here always have but  
heard by anticipation,

“ . . . the tread of pioneers  
Of nations yet to be,  
The first low wash of waves where yet  
Shall roll a human sea ”—

and perhaps the present writing by one who  
was at the very beginning may be of interest.

R. G. MACBETH.

WINNIPEG, April, 1898.