

**TRAVELS AND
EXPERIENCES IN CANADA,
THE RED RIVER TERRITORY
AND THE UNITED STATES**

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Travels and Experiences in Canada, the Red River Territory and the United States by Peter O'Leary

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PETER O'LEARY

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BY
PETER O'LEARY.

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THIS BOOK
IS, BY PERMISSION, DEDICATED TO
THE RIGHT HON. EARL DUFFERIN, K.P., K.C.B.,
GOVERNOR GENERAL
OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.
IN RESPECTFUL RECOGNITION OF HIS HIGH QUALITIES
AS A
PRUDENT, COURTEOUS, AND ENLIGHTENED
STATESMAN.

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PREFACE.

IN giving this, my first work, to the world, I would take the opportunity of thanking the gentlemen connected with the various important newspapers in Europe, and America who, during my travels in America, published my letters in their respective journals, and commented upon their contents with much consideration and kindness. It is not unknown to them, and to a large number of their readers, that I have no pretension to the education of a scholar, although possibly, as far as knowledge of the affairs of my fellow-workmen is concerned, I may have as practically useful an education as most men. To those of my readers who do not know me personally, I may briefly state, that my father was, at the time of my birth, a farm labourer in Ireland, and that when I was six years of age, he brought my mother and myself, from Ireland to England, and settled with us a few miles from London, where he followed his old occupation. I was myself employed on a farm as a labourer until the 20th year of my age, when, prompted partly by a desire for novelty and change, and partly by a wish to secure more lucrative employment I came to London, where I obtained employment as a paviour's labourer, and I followed that business until I rose to the rank of street mason and paviour. The little learning I may have, has been what I have picked up in my leisure moments; in other words, I am a self-taught man. I need scarcely state that I make no pre-

tensions to grammatical perfection or elegance of style ; all I have endeavoured here to do has been to express homely and, as I believe, useful truths in language which, if not highly polished, is, I know, at least intelligible to those for whose benefit this has been written. I am confident, therefore, that my work, if not found wanting in other respects, will receive, in spite of my rough and ready style, favourable consideration at the hands of my readers.

In dedicating this work (by permission) to the Governor General of Canada, I have neither considered his Excellency's politics, nor his exalted rank, but have dedicated it to Earl Dufferin because I firmly believe, that he is the right man in the right place, fully understanding his duties and responsibilities, and ever ready and anxious to perform them with credit to himself and benefit to the Canadian people. Nothing can exceed the courtesy extended by him to all classes of the community ; he has ever manifested an earnest desire to assuage injurious dissensions, to unite clashing interests, and to firmly consolidate the union of the various sections of the Canadian Confederation.

I cannot refrain from noticing in this place the generous and patriotic conduct of Mr. James Mulligan, of St. James, Fort Gary, Manitoba, who, during my stay there, deposited £100 in the Merchant's Bank of the City of Winnipeg, in the names of Mr. Boyle, Editor of the *Irish Canadian*, Toronto ; Mr. M. P. Ryan, M.P., Montreal ; and Mr. P. F. Johnson, Kanturk, Ireland, as trustees for the assistance of such Irish emigrants to Manitoba as may arrive in that province during the next two years. I trust that the example of Mr. Mulligan will be followed by others of my wealthy countrymen in Canada and the

United States. There can be no more beneficent act of charity than the extension of help in the hour of need to the too often helpless and nearly penniless emigrant. A very little assistance at a critical moment means often to emigrants the difference between a life of prosperity and happiness, and a life of abject pauperism and misery. They are alone and in a strange land, and help coming to them there from the hand of a fellow countryman is doubly dear. In aiding their less fortunate countrymen, prosperous Irishmen in Canada and America, should, for the honour of their country, not be behindhand. And now, with many thanks to all my kind friends in Europe, Canada, and the United States, for the hospitality and courtesy I have received at their hands, I venture to issue this account of my experience and travels, trusting it will meet with their approval and receive their support.

PETER O'LEARY.

London.

