

**THE LIFE OF F. M., H. R. H. EDWARD,
DUKE OF KENT, ILLUSTRATED BY HIS
CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE DE
SALABERRY FAMILY,
NEVER BEFORE PUBLISHED, EXTENDING
FROM 1791 TO 1814**

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The Life of F. M., H. R. H. Edward, Duke of Kent, Illustrated by His Correspondence with the De Salaberry Family, Never before Published, Extending from 1791 to 1814 by Dr. William James Anderson

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DR. WILLIAM JAMES ANDERSON

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BY

DR. WILLIAM JAMES ANDERSON, L.R.C.S., EDIN.,

President of the Quebec Literary and Historical Society.

"To hold, as 'twere, the mirror up to nature."

"I should very imperfectly execute the task I have undertaken, if I were only to treat of battles and sieges, of the rise and fall of administrations, of intrigues in the Palace, and of debates in Parliament."—*Macaulay.*



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INTRODUCTORY.

ONE of the objects of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, is the prosecution of researches into the early history of Canada, and the recovering, procuring and publishing interesting documents and useful information in connexion with the natural, civil and literary history of British North America. Having, during the past year, been in professional attendance on the late Lieut.-Colonel de Salaberry, Deputy Adjutant General of the Province, and the son of that distinguished Canadian soldier, Lieut.-Colonel Charles Michel de Salaberry, whose name is inseparably connected with Canada as the Victor of Chateauguay, I had many opportunities of conversing with him on that great exploit, as also on the general career of his father. Seeing that I felt so much interest in the subject, Col. de Salaberry placed in my hands certain letters addressed to his father by the late Duke of Kent, and I was thus enabled to prepare a paper which I read before the Society.

After its publication in the "Transactions" of the Society, it became known that there had been placed in my hands by Col. de Salaberry, and his younger brother Charles, a correspondence between the Duke of Kent and members of the de Salaberry family, extending from 1791 to 1814, and a very general opinion was expressed by friends whose opinion I valued, that I should not rest with the publication of the paper which I had read, but should undertake to write a life of the Duke of Kent, based on the materials in my possession.

It has been said that when personal character and habits form the principal subject of interest, a stranger stands at too great a distance to give the portrait a faithful outline or correct coloring, and that a true one can be only portrayed by him whose friendly intercourse gave opportunity of marking the peculiar characteristics of the subject. This is undoubtedly to a certain extent true, but it will also be admitted that he who writes his own biography often discloses