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THE WAR, AND ITS MORAL:

A

CANADIAN CHRONICLE.

BY

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FORMERLY SHERIFF OF THE DISTRICT OF MONTREAL, LIEUT.-COLONEL, STAFF, ACTIVE
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ORDNANCE ESTATES, CANADA.

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1864.

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE

SIR EDMUND WALKER HEAD, BARONET.

MY DEAR SIR,-I venture to appeal to your respected name as the best introduction for the little work which I do myself the honour to dedicate to you. To you, indeed, it owes its existence. You conferred upon me the appointment I have the honour to hold under the Crown in Canada, and that appointment has given life to an idea, long cherished in embryo.

The management of the Ordnance Lands in this Province has thrown me upon the scenes of the most notable events of the late war. It has brought me in contact with many of the surviving actors. It has revived early recollections of my own.

The achievements of 1812 were the household words of my childish days. For three years, I grew up among the men, and almost among the incidents of the time. In the Spring of 1815, from the Grand Battery at Quebec, I had watched the slow cavalcade which bore Sir George Prevost across the ice of the St. Lawrence, on his return to England.

Fifteen years afterwards brought me back to a country which, for thirty-three years, has been my home. During this long interval, the subject of the war has never ceased to be one of great interest. It has led to many enquiries, and to a gradual accumulation of material, which might have seen light earlier, had I

not been daunted by a wholesome precept of my English schooling.:

Si quantum cuperem, possem quoque. Non me us audet,
Rem tentare pudor, quam vires ferre recusent.

That I do so now, must be ascribed, in great part, to the liberality of my Publisher; in some degree to the pressure of a belief that, under the circumstances of the times, the effort had become a duty ; and still more, to the opportunity and incentive you had made.

Permit me therefore, "*Si tam parvum carmen, majestas recipit tua,*" to offer to you, in you honourable retirement, this mark of respectful homage. Canada owes to you a deep debt of gratitude. The revival of the military spirit of the country is due to your fostering hand. At your touch the Volunteer force sprang into life. The spirit you infused is inextinguishable. Your parting words will never be forgotten. As a member of that force, "*quorum pars parva fui,*" I offer this humble tribute to your talents, your patriotism, and to your manly, English, independence of character, and have the honour to subscribe myself;

My dear Sir,

With regard and ,gratitude,

Your faithful servant,

WILLIAM F. COFFIN.

OTTAWA, 2nd January, 1864.

Works consulted and documents furnished—chiefly by personal friends—which have contributed to this Chronicle of War of 1812.

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<i>Christie</i>	History of Lower Canada.	<i>Sabine</i>	American Loyalists.
<i>Av, chinleck</i>	History of the War.	<i>Veritas</i>	Letters of 1815.
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<i>Tupper</i>	Life of Brock, and Corres.	<i>Pontiac</i>	Conspiracy of.
<i>Stone</i>	Life of Brant.	<i>Goodrich</i>	History of the United States—P. Parley.
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<i>Schoolcraft</i>	Indian Tribes	<i>Bauchette</i> •	Topography.
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Major General Thomas Evans.	Manuscript Memoir of ^{It} Sir George Prevost.
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The Author tenders his thanks to the Hon. Pierre **J. O.** Chauveau, Superintendent of Education, L. C., for access to the valuable collection of Books and Documents relating to Canadian History, to be found in the Library of the **Jacques Cartier Normal School, Montreal.**

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ERRATA.

P. 48, line 24, for "Howard," read "Heward."

P. 62, line 7, for " Howard," read "Reward."

P. 29, line 18, for " Admiral Humphreys," read "Admiral Berkeley."

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