THAYENDANEGEA: AN HISTORICO-MILITARY DRAMA

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Thayendanegea: An Historico-Military Drama by J. B. Mackenzie

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J. B. MACKENZIE

THAYENDANEGEA: AN HISTORICO-MILITARY DRAMA





THE FIGURE CROWNING THE PEDESTAL OF THE BRANT MONUMENT.

THAYENDANEGEA:

AN

HISTORICO-MILITARY DRAMA.

BY J. B. MACKENZIE

MEMBER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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"The Six-Nations Indians in Canada,"

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Entered according to Act of the Parliament of Canada, in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, by J. R. Mackaszie, at the Department of Agriculture.

TO THE

Reverend William Clark, M.B., LL.D.,

Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy, in the University of Trinity College, Toronto:

WHOSE FRIENDLY ENCOURAGEMENT-

GRACE ACCORDED ONLY AFTER HIS, AN EXPERT'S, SCRUTINY OF A PORTION OF THE TIMBER BEING USED—

EXTENDED TO THE AUTHOR, WHILST IT WAS AS VET REPOBLING ON THE STOCKS,

EMBOLDENS HIM TO TEST THE SEA-WORTHINESS

OF THE THIN-RIBBED CRAFT, NOW LAUNCHED

ON THE CHOPPY BILLOWS OF LATTER-DAY ORITICISM,

THE DRAMA OF THAYENDANEGEA

IS INSCRIBED.

retries June 19/16

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PREFACE.

I AVAIL myself of an introduction mainly to record the motives which led me to compose this poem.

I formed the opinion, first, that it was the bounden duty of somsone to enter the breach, in order to rid the situation of the singular—not to say affronting—anomaly to be traced through the circumstance of the character and actions of Tecumseh having enlisted the machinery of the drama for their attractive exposition, whilst those of the earlier companion upholder of British supremacy on the continent—one endowed with a many-sided capacity, plainly denied to the other (barely his compeer even in the way of military distinction) one who acquired equal celebrity for his bearing in the martial camp, beside the Council-fire, and in the field of diplomacy, remain unchapleted by any memorial tribute tendered him of the kind.

I believed, again, that no more efficacious—no more convincing—method of refuting the charges of barbarity freely fabricated by American historians against Brant, could be practised than the bringing in request, so to speak, Thespis' undistorting camera, to imprint a few of those occurrences, which—as a component part of the portraiture designed to be revealed—exhibit him as a foeman who; while ceasing at no time, perhaps, to inspire animosity and dread, was yet, in his treatment of fellow-beings

weighed down by affliction and suffering—dragged, under the heart-breaking empire of War, behind the chariot wheels of an adverse fortune—alike generous and humans.

To dispel the suspicion liable withal to be entertained, by those enjoying but cursory acquaintance with his career, that the showing forth of the famous War-captain, in the pages of the drama, exaggerates his eminence—that there has been a fictitious gilding of the plate, an over-adorning of the tapestry-I invoke the estimate of him voiced by the Hon. Ellis H. Roberts, upon an occasion (the centennial observance of Oriskany) well fitted to awake the slumbering resentment of colonials against all such faithful adherents of the Crown: "superior to St. Leger " (the British Commander) "in natural powers and personal magnetism, was Brant —the ideal Indian; with all the genius of his tribe, and the training gained in Connecticut schools, and in the family of Sir William Johnson: among the Indians he was pre-eminent, and in any circle would have been conspicuous;" to fortify which, condensing the conclusion found in Appleton's Cyclopædia, that, "as a warrior, he was cautious, sagacious, and brave; as a diplomat and courtier, adroit and accomplished; while his humanity to a captive or fallen foe is too well established to admit of doubt."

With a life so brimful of stirring and of pregnant adventure such as Brant's, the difficulty of making a selection of incidents, which should at once, with adequacy, typify the man, and interest and divert