Henry Scadding's *Toronto of Old*, 1873 and 1878: A Bibliographical Note

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A copy of *Toronto of Old* (1873), recently acquired by Massey College Library, which was in a different casing from our other, imperfect copy of that date, led to this small inquiry. Our original copy is in green pebble-grained cloth,¹ with the short title, the arms of Toronto, and the author's name, all three in gilt, on the upper cover (the lower cover is blank), and a longer title, the author's name, and a short imprint with place and publisher's name, in gilt, on the spine. At the head and foot are decorative, rectangular strips of ornament, gilt, and a triangular flower-and-leaf ornament, also gilt, is placed below Scadding's name. Let us call this A and note a few facts about the make-up of the prelims: the engraved frontispiece is a portrait of Lieutenant-General Simcoe, and it is followed by π^o, twelve pages, paginated, when numbered, with roman numerals:

- (i) title-leaf (with imprint of Adam, Stevenson & Co.); on verso imprint of Hunter, Rose & Co.;
- (ii) dedication to Lord Dufferin (verso blank);
- (iii) Preface, pp. v vi-ix (p. x is blank);
- (iv) Contents, pp. xi-xii.

1878, which is sometimes spoken of as an edition, is a reissue. The frontispiece is now an engraved portrait of the Honourable William Osgoode. The first two leaves of text have been cancelled and replaced by four leaves:

- (i) title-leaf (with imprint of Willing & Williamson, 1878);
- (ii) dedication, still to Lord Dufferin, but the resetting shows those inevitable changes which accompany a reprint. Line 11, which in 1873 ends correctly with a comma, now has a full point; and a full point is inserted, equally unnecessarily, at the end of the dedication, l. 14; verso, List of Illustrations [these are 16 in number; there was only one, the frontispiece, in 1873];
- (iii) 'Opinions of the English Press', pp. v vi-vii; p. viii: 'ERRATA in addition to those noted at p. 580.' [By itself, this is a very clear pointer to the fact that we have a reissue, and not a new edition];
- (iv) Preface, pp. ²v, vi-ix [&c.]

The designs impressed on the cloth boards change too.² The arms of Toronto are, in blind, on the centre of the lower cover. The rest of that cover bears, in blind, the decoration which is stamped in black on the upper cover. The central feature is, near the foot, a rectangular vignette, 'TORONTO 1834.' In the centre of the upper cover there is, in gilt, a plant with leaves and flowers, and, superimposed, the short title, with the author's name below. The spine decoration is a mixture of black and gilt, of which the most important feature, for the present purposes, is the device at the foot, of the two joined Ws, across the ligature of which the much smaller word 'AND' is stamped. Let us call this B. The spine imprint shows that it is Willing & Williamson's casing for the book; and it was a copy of this casing, but with 1873 sheets inside, which was the starting point of our inquiry, an inquiry which could not have been carried even the short distance it has without the resources of the Baldwin Room at the Metropolitan Toronto Library.

It looks, therefore, as though the book may be found, in several coloured cloths, in three different states:

- A: original 1873 sheets, with Adam, Stevenson casing (gilt arms of Toronto on u.c.); engraved frontispiece of General Simcoe; A, s imprint on title-page;
- AB: original 1873 sheets, ?without frontispiece, but in Willing & Williamson casing (vignette, in black, of the curving lakefront of Toronto, seen from the east and dated 1834);
- B: W & W casing; half-sheet cancel of prelims, with the title-leaf bearing Willing & Williamson's imprint and dated 1878; Chief Justice Osgoode's portrait on the frontispiece, and fifteen other engravings.

These tentative notes are drawn up after seeing but nine copies, representing all three states, but may serve some purpose as a guide to the identity of copies of the book, which, alas, is often found entirely rebound.

Notes

1. Other copies of 1873 are to be found in blue cloth, orangey-brown cloth, and possibly yet other colours.
2. 1878 has been seen in faded mauve cloth, and in green. Once more, there is a possibility of further variations.

[Editor's Note: Robert Willing and William Williamson, two former employees of Adam, Stevenson & Co., established the new partnership of Willing & Williamson in August 1871. They purchased the retail business of Adam, Stevenson (Graeme Mercer Adam and John H. Stevenson) and took over the bookstore at 10-12 King Street East started by the older firm. Adam, Stevenson, meanwhile, continued as publishers and wholesale booksellers at the same address for several years, probably until late 1877 or early 1878, as they are listed in the Toronto directories until 1878. E.H.]