

PREFACE.

Don't expect too much from the title of this book. It is not meant to imply that herein is an array of men each with his pockets bulging with money and a long string of degrees attached to his name; rather, the rich and the poor, the learned and the unlearned, who have been or who are now so connected with the interests of Topeka, that they are well known or worthy of mention.

One thing we regret, and that is, that a few of the well-known men of Topeka, those whom you will look to find, would not give us their biographies, and although we could have received the material by other means yet we preferred not to do so against this wish. Some were too modest, others were indifferent, and then there were those who, having been in some paid biography schemes for which afterwards they regretted that they had done so, had firmly resolved never to give out anything again about themselves.

We have taken especial pains to get the well-known old settlers of Topeka. Biographies of many of them have never appeared in print before and, as many of the older ones are rapidly passing away, this material received by personal interviews with them before they died, is of much value.

Mention, too, should be made of the worthy women in this book. No such collection of biographies of Topeka women of all the walks of life has yet appeared.

We have tried to include all the pastors of Topeka. This has been hard to do for changes are continually being made. In one instance there have been three changes within the last four months.

As to the material: some of the most prominent men chose to give but short sketches, which accounts for some interesting things that you probably know about them being left out. Then there were those who thought several pages or so might be sufficient. Occasionally one would think this book some advertising scheme and would send us a sketch, yes, a very nice sketch. In dealing with this diversity of material, our aim has been to make the biographies as uniform as possible.

We should not forget to thank the many, well acquainted with Topeka people, who have aided us much in the selection of those who are in this book, especially the old settlers worthy of mentioning.

Not a cent has been charged for these biographies, not a cent has been received so far to pay the great expense involved in getting out this book. Only by the hearty support of the public-spirited citizens of Topeka who, after reading but a few of its pages, can readily see the worthy purpose of publishing it, will it be a financial success.

HOWARD D. BERRETT.