



THE AUTHOR "A LA KANSAS."

THE
War in Kansas.

A ROUGH TRIP TO THE BORDER,

AMONG

NEW HOMES AND A STRANGE PEOPLE.

BY

G. DOUGLAS BREWERTON,

AUTHOR OF "A RIDE WITH KIT CARSON," "INCIDENTS OF TRAVEL IN NEW MEXICO,"
"ROUGHING IT IN THE BUFFALO COUNTRY," "CAMP FIRE YARNS," ETC.

"Gentlemen, it's a very pretty quarrel as it stands."

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To

KIT CARSON,

THE "MOUNTAIN-MAN" and GUIDE, with whom we have traversed the wilds of the Rocky Mountains, and the sun-scorched sands of the American desert, this work is dedicated, as an evidence of the sincere regard which is entertained for him, both as a *voyageur* and as a *man*, by his old comrade,

THE AUTHOR.

P R E F A C E .

We are about to write what nobody reads—a Preface. Did you ever, kind reader, see a young mamma in all the flutter and anxiety of adorning her "*latest* production" for its first appearance upon some public promenade? for if you have, you may the more fully appreciate our trepidation in sending *this* youngster, all unattended, into the world, to court the smiles of those crabbed old fellows, the critics, and win, if we be lucky, its "little meed of fame," from that no less difficult class to please—"our readers." But to carry out the simile, let us suppose the "infant phenomenon" aforesaid—not ours but the anxious mamma's—to be ugly by nature—in short, as peevish, squalling, ill-behaved, and unbearable a brat as ever pulled "grand-pa's" hair or screamed lustily after midnight—to how great an extent *then* are our young matrons perplexities increased as she "fusses and fixes," scolds "nurse" and soothes "baby;" and where, let us ask, will you find a more ill-tempered or naturally repulsive *original* production than this very unpromising offspring of Pro-Slavery and Free Soil, which we are about to exhibit under the somewhat hackneyed title of "The War in Kansas." Yet though the words fall wearily, like a thrice-told tale, upon your ear, we flatter ourself that there are some new truths to be found upon these pages, for there is an inner life in all great events—and who shall doubt the

celebrity of the Wakarusa War?—an *under-current* of adventure and character, and it is in *this* tide that we have preferred to go-a-whaling for such incidents as appeared likely to be most interesting to the reader.

Nor can we charge ourself with neglecting those more important events—with the causes which lead thereto—that have been landmarks in the progress of this much-talked-of campaign. Oh, no; we have done our duty by the "Gradgrinds" in writing up the *facts* as we present them to you, in the shape of His Excellency Governor Shannon's statement on the one side, and that of the Free Soil leader, Major-General Robinson, upon the other, with all such documents as may seem necessary to a full understanding of the same. So having been thus faithful to the *substantials* of the war, by putting in such *heavy* blocks as these, we have ventured to relieve the sternness of the whole by the *lighter*, yet no less truthful, adornments of "Squire Portly and his dame," "our friend Major Ramrod," "the Hard Shell Baptist Preacher," "Deacon Graves," and "Old Man Rhymer," for whose *peculiar* eccentricities we would respectfully refer you to the chapters of this book.

And as a *finale* to our Preface, we assure the reader that we are upon *neither* side of this unhappy quarrel, between those who, united as they are by one common bond of national brotherhood, ought to be the best of friends. On the contrary, we have gazed upon the Kansas difficulties as the old lady did when she put on her spectacles to see her husband fight the bear—on which occasion (to quote from that venerable woman's narrative of the combat just alluded to), "she allowed sometimes that she'd dyather see thar old man whip, and then agin she *felt* fur thar bar; but bimeby, when they wor a goin' it strong, she didn't bother much about it, till toward thar last, an then it jest seemed as ef she didn't kear a dern *which* licked so long as she *seed* thar *fight*."

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