

PREFATORY.



MUCH of the history and many of the incidents herein narrated are so related to the conflict between Slavery and Freedom and the defeat and destruction of the former, "the sum of all villainies," as to justify me in interweaving a resumé of its introduction and growth into a national disgrace, its insolence and downfall, with the more personal features of my autobiography. The subject is necessarily treated imperfectly for the sake of brevity, yet, I believe, with accuracy. This volume is written in response to oft-repeated solicitations of friends of the author to put on record the more eventful incidents of a life devoted to God and Freedom in days that tried men's souls, but not without the hope that it may awaken additional interest in the important part played by Kansas in securing the freedom of a bonded race, and that it may also, by its record of national and individual accomplishments, encourage the further bridling and eventual abolition by the people of "God and Home and Native Land" of that greatest crime remaining in the wake of slavery—the rum traffic.

I have tried, moreover, to portray an occasional thrilling incident with the idea in view of entertaining and instructing the young people of Kansas and the Church into whose hands the volume may come, and into whose hearts I would instill the patriotism of the heroes whose achievements are herein depicted and a love for those principles which carry with them a confident hope of Eternal Life.

THE AUTHOR.