

PREFACE.

IN offering this book to the public, I hardly feel that any apology is due from me, and yet the reason for its preparation should perhaps be given. The animating motive of the work was a desire that the early history of the city of Topeka might be preserved in perfect truthfulness—a desire which sympathetic friends will certainly not censure me for entertaining.

In matters which more especially pertain to Shawnee county, I feel rather to censure myself for not giving many facts and incidents omitted, but which in the future will be of considerable local interest.

Considerable space is given to purely State history, a thing quite foreign to the original design of the book, and which, in view of the comprehensive work by the State Historical Society, that the community is anxiously awaiting, would not have been touched upon at all, had it not been so intimately connected with a history of Topeka that it became necessary to do so.

Some events narrated will seem trivial now, but in the future their interest will be in the ratio that time past bears to the date of their occurrence. Contemporary observers will notice errors, of course, but hoping that none of importance have been committed, I can only remind the reader that it is human to err, and that it is divine to forgive.

The frontispiece is from an oil painting for the author by Henry Worrall, in 1870. I had prepared a sketch and submitted it for approval to early associates. From that Mr. Worrall produced the very satisfactory painting—18x26 inches—now in my possession. It is a true representation of the original cabin and its surroundings, as they existed during the winter of 1854-5, to the most minute detail. The representation of a quarter of beef may be taken as a symbol of the abundance that Topekans have always enjoyed, and serve as a reminder to the founders of the disturbance of their slumbers by the howling wolves.

Very respectfully, F. W. GILES.

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