

PREFACE.

BEFORE taking final leave of this little work and presenting it to the public, the publisher desires to express his obligations to those through whose assistance he has been enabled to compile the facts, figures, and incidents contained in the following pages. Especially is the author indebted to Ira D. Brougher, county clerk of Barton, and D. N. Heizer, Esq., of Great Bend, to whose records and statistical pages he has been free to turn, and has made liberal use thereof. The names of other contributors will be found in their appropriate places; as proper credit is always given to articles not the sole work of the author.

Confident that, in spite of all the care that has been taken to have a perfect work, it still contains many errors and imperfections; yet the compiler indulges the hope that a sympathetic public will not judge harshly, and will

"View me not with critic's eye:
But pass my imperfections by."

It is hoped that, on the other hand, a generous and appreciative public will peruse with delight the good things contained in the following pages; and will notice the careful, well-selected, and judicious arrangement, and the large amount of facts and information contained in a small compass.

BERNARD B. SMYTH.

GREAT BEND, KANSAS, January, 1880.

