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MARY A. HUMPHREY,
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DEDICATION.

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TO THE PIONEERS OF KANSAS.
THE NOBLE MARTYRS
WHO GAVE UP THEIR LIVES IN DEFENCE OF
THE PRINCIPLES OF LIBERTY AND JUSTICE,
THE SURVIVORS OF THAT OLDEN TIME
WHO SUCCEEDED IN REARING UPON HER PLAINS,
THE RAMPART WHICH TURNED BACK THE ADVANCING
TIDE OF SLAVERY,
AND
THE GALLANT ARMY OF WORKERS,
WHOSE TOILS AND PRIVATIONS MADE
POSSIBLE THE GLORIOUS PROSPERITY NOW
ENJOYED BY HER PEOPLE, THIS VOLUME IS
REVERENTLY DEDICATED.

THE AUTHOR.

AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

Having long been deeply impressed with the national significance of the preliminary strife engendered upon the plains of Kansas on the promulgation of the doctrine of Squatter Sovereignty, by the determination of each section of the Union to obtain supremacy, and filled with admiration for the patriotic and noble souls who led the vanguard of freedom in the irrepressible conflict, through hardship and toil, through privation and danger, through misunderstanding, contumely, and misrepresentation, I have been impelled to disinter some of the leading events from beneath the weight of later memories of the civil war and its great achievements, and to embody them, while sources of information are still accessible, in a more enduring form.

And, believing that the highest form of history is that which makes apparent to the reader the effect of great movements upon individuals and communities, I have carefully collected and strung together the threads of fact, weaving them into a story with the golden woof of fiction, hoping that the web might prove acceptable for the intrinsic value of the material though wrought by a prentice hand.

MARY A. HUMPHREY.