

PREFACE.

PERHAPS no part of our great country has moved forward with such rapid strides during the past generation or two as the West and Northwest. Instead of being regarded as an out-of-the-way sort of place, consisting of "interminable deserts" and endless and impassable mountains, containing the "scrapings of creation," and "not worth a pinch of snuff" (as it was characterized by famous statesmen and honorable Senators in the halls of Congress in bygone years), it is rapidly coming to the front and bids fair at no distant day to become the center of activities and influences world-wide in their extent.

Among the thousands who are coming from all lands and from all parts of our own land to behold its attractions, enjoy its luxuries, and possess its treasures there are comparatively few who stop to think of the labor performed, the obstacles encountered, and the hardships endured by those who went before and laid the foundations of the commercial, the civil, the social, and the religious life that abounds there to-day. A desire to contribute something toward a higher appreciation of the efforts put forth by those who wrought in the conquest and Christianization of this vast domain, especially the latter, is the apology for the appearance of this volume. At the call of the Master they forsook all and went forth into the wilderness, performing heroic tasks and enduring untold privations, not a few laying down their