

PREFACE—Continued

sadness—varied with illuminating, holy and heavenly thoughts. As has been well said, "The finest friendships have been formed in mutual adversity, as iron is most strongly welded by the fiercest fire,"—and that has surely been true in my case. The narratives related by the different characters, and fascinating stories of brotherly devotion and sacrifice in real life, are beautiful and elevating. Superb examples of chivalry, love and friendship will be found set forth on page after page of this work. This book can be read again and again with absorbing and sustained interest, and it is certain to make a deep impression on minds imbued with the spirit of human sympathy and devotion.

The gloriously picturesque scenery of the Klondike and Alaksa, and the gay social life, the hospitality and brotherly spirit in evidence at a time when the host Northland, within the scope of the Arctic Circle, was the Mecca of adventurous men and women of every clime, in their pursuit of the fickle goddess of fortune, furnish a background for these most striking and thrilling narratives. Those who peruse these pages will find the most astounding climax of over thirty years of travel, adventure, sacrifice and staunch fidelity to conscience, almost unbelievable; yet every line recorded bears the stamp of sincerity and truth, and well exemplifies the old adage that "truth is stranger than fiction."

If I might be permitted to point to a moral in this work that might at some time benefit my readers, I