

INTRODUCTION.

"TRUTH is stranger than fiction." This remark has been often repeated, and the history of the world teems with incidents that show its correctness. The press of the present day throws off numberless works of fiction different in their character, and suited to the various tastes of those who read. In this little volume there is no fiction. An attempt has been made to gather and arrange the incidents in the lives of a few individuals who were actors in scenes of no common kind. It is a matter of regret that more efforts of the same kind have not been made. In many sections of our country, occurrences rich in interest have been lost hopelessly, by the death of the last of those in whose memories they were treasured.

In various ways, imperfect sketches of this tale have been given to the public. The attempt to give it in a more complete form than any in which it has appeared heretofore, has been made at the