

PREFACE.

MANKIND worship success but think too little of the means by which it is attained. What toil and patience have gone before; what days and nights of watching and weariness; how often hope deferred has made the heart sick; how year after year has dragged on, and seen the end still afar off—all that counts for little, if the long struggle do not close in victory. And yet in the history of human achievements, it is necessary to trace these beginnings step by step, if we would learn the lesson they teach, that it is only out of heroic patience and perseverance that any thing truly great is born.

The object of this volume is to record the history of a great enterprise, which, after many disappointments, seems at last to have touched its hour of triumph. It is a work which has cost its projector twelve years of constant toil, and more than fifty voyages, of which two thirds have been across the Atlantic,