

PREFACE.

THE main object that has been kept in view in the preparation of this "HAND-BOOK OF AMERICAN CITIES" has been to combine fullness and precision of information with the utmost attainable economy of space; and to present the information in such a manner as to secure the greatest possible facility of consultation. Travelers who are accustomed to the profuseness and diffuseness of the ordinary guide-books may feel some natural distrust of a book which proposes to cover so wide a field in so small a compass; but it is believed that practical trial will convince all who make it that the present work contains a larger amount and greater variety of that kind of information which is really useful to the tourist and sight-seer than many more voluminous and pretentious works. Its comparative smallness of dimension and consequent economy of price have been secured, not by omitting material facts, but by studiously excluding all superfluous and unimportant matter, and by a rigid condensation of style.

In order to make the book easy to consult at a moment's notice, a system of classification has been adopted, intelligible at a glance and uniform throughout the volume. It will be seen at once that the field of search for any particular structure or place of interest is thus greatly narrowed; and the quest is further facilitated by distinguishing the object described from the description of it and from the rest of the text, by putting it either in *italics* or in **black letters**. No mention is made of anything which is not thought worth the traveler's attention; but there are degrees of attractiveness even among noteworthy things, and this it is attempted to indicate by the relative typographical prominence accorded them. The objects and places whose names are printed in **black letters** are thus a selection from a selection; or, to put it dogmatically, they indicate what *must* be seen as distinguished from what *may* be seen when time and disposition are propitious.

The illustrations follow the general line of the text, and have been selected with an eye rather to utility than to ornament. It is believed, however, that, as a whole, they will afford an adequate and trustworthy idea of American city architecture, and, in a lesser degree, of American scenery and engineering achievements.

Much care has been taken to make the HAND-BOOK accurate and fully up to date in its information; but in dealing with so many and diverse facts it is probable that some errors have crept in, and that there are some omissions. The book will be kept standing in type and subjected to a thorough annual revision, and the editor will be grateful for any corrections or suggestions. Communications should be addressed to the EDITOR OF APPLETONS' HAND-BOOK OF AMERICAN CITIES, care of D. Appleton & Co., New York.

ABBREVIATIONS.

M., mile or miles; sq. m., square miles; ft., foot or feet; hrs., hours; r., right; l., left; cor., corner; St., street; Sts., streets; Ave., avenue; N., north; S., south; E., east; W., west.