

## *Preface*

I DO not purpose offering any apology for the appearance of this modest volume; it is not intended to be anything than a short and imperfect sketch of the life of one of the best men I ever knew.

I suppose there is no task more tantalizing than the task of attempting to write the life of an active man of business. One feels that if he were able to tell the story as it occurred it would be a very fascinating story indeed. But the material is not at hand. The years have gone by quickly and your active man of business has been occupied day by day with the work that came to his hand. He has had little time to write anything beyond what was needed for immediate use. He rarely preserves papers or documents, so that when the survivors gather up the crumbs they cannot make much of them.

No one realizes more than I do my inability to present the subject of this sketch as he really was. To those who knew him personally no mere written account can be of service. To those who did not know him personally, the picture will be a very imperfect one indeed. How can we by mere words give a true picture of a man's life? Thomas Carlyle says: "that a well written life is almost as rare as a well spent one". In undertaking this task I do not forget that everything savoring of flattery must be avoided. Nothing would have been more distasteful to the man whose memory I desire to preserve. He was ever mindful of St. Paul's injunction not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think. Perhaps his fault was that he erred the other way. He did not have a proper conception of his own ability. Had he been his own biographer, he would have put himself down as a failure. He would