



PREFACE

THE volume here presented to the reader is in no sense to be taken as a "book of travels," but rather as an attempt to sketch, in a light and chatty manner, some features of American life and scenery, as they presented themselves to me during my hasty run through the country.

I make no attempt to give a detailed description of each place that I visited, with full statistics of population, school attendance, etc., all of which information may be obtained from guide books and other sources already in existence. I have rather endeavoured to give a plain, brief, and straightforward account of what I myself saw, did, and heard in the New World. I am anxious that this volume should prove interesting to those persons who have visited America, as well as useful to those who may be inclined to follow in my footsteps.

I trust that nothing I have put down in this work will be displeasing to any of those friends who showed me so much kindness and hospitality whilst in their country, and if any such careless word should have found its way into the following pages, I am sure that it is an inadvertence, and I hope that if any American should honour me by reading the book, he will consider the *lapsus calami*, as entirely unintentional.

The trip to America is now a very ordinary experience, and a run over to the States will soon be thought of no more consequence than was a journey from Yorkshire to London fifty years ago, when the intending traveller to the South made his will, and in other ways settled his worldly affairs, before starting on his three days' journey by coach to the great metropolis.