


AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

N unveiling my life to the public gaze, I am not actuated by any eulogistic or mercenary motives. Nor do I think that the life of any man in the ordinary walks of life is going to electrify the world, or even be extensively circulated or generally read, in this day and age when so many are rushing into print. And as evidence that this sentiment is honest, the small edition of one thousand copies is sufficient.

Notwithstanding this declaration, I imagine I have a history, and in many respects a remarkable one; and that it is fraught with interest which will repay the reader for his labor, and more especially the young American who is so unfortunate as to be turned out on the world without a penny or influential friends to aid him. It will at least show him what one waif, cast out upon the stormy billows of life, has accomplished; or, in other words, what a determined spirit, possessed of energy and perseverance, may accomplish. But my principal object in writing these sketches is to leave my record with my children and friends. And I will further say that I have long hesitated before publishing, and it is now with a feeling of great diffidence that I permit the work to go to press. Not that I fear that it does not possess interest sufficient to warrant its reading, but from the extent and strangeness of many incidents that it contains.

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