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The Object of This Book.

MAN'S LIFE consists of his past and his future—that which is behind him and that which is still before him. The present is only a short link between these two stages of life. Although the present is the only time in which man can act, the moments are so fleeting that he constantly finds himself face to face with the future while his actions rapidly become deeds of the past. Since the future is the time in which man hopes to make his influence felt in this world, it is expedient that he review the past in order that he may profit by the light of its experiences.

Therefor, if this little book serve to refresh the memories of those who have lived in the period and realm which it covers, if it be instrumental in bringing the past and its events more vividly before them, if it so presents the present—that which will have been added to the archives of the past even before this volume reaches the hands of its readers—that those to whom, in the future, the moral and material welfare of our native place may be entrusted, may realize and recognize their standpoint, and if the fortunes of the past, as shown and indicated in this book, serve as a ray of light to illuminate their path of duty for the future, the object and hopes of its author will have been realized.

Whether we are secure or lost in the wilderness, we have an objective point in view. In order to reach this we must first ascertain our present position. We must mentally retrace our steps, scrutinize the paths we have trodden, recall the motives and reasons that have led or misled us, and then, by the light of our experiences, successes and failures, form an opinion of our whereabouts. Our position properly established and our objective point clearly defined, we are in a position to advance. Then may we follow the plans of the great Architect of the universe and, in a measure, do that which is required of us, to help build up this great world of which we are so infinitesimal a part.

Respectfully,

GEORGE KLINCK.

Elmira, August 1st, 1903.