

## PREFACE.

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THE following work was commenced and written for the most part, as a recreation and a means of personal improvement, without any design to publish it. I was studying the Bible, and took this method to familiarize myself with its details and impress it on my own mind. Many persons since, in whose judgment I confide, have thought it would be useful to others, and requested its publication. Numerous friends, in the churches I have served and the schools I have conducted and superintended, have expressed a desire for such a memorial. And as the plan and style of the book are out of the ordinary course; as the Muses were the early instructors of mankind, and have always been considered useful to assist the memory, excite to duty, and please the imagination; and as here is brought together a connected series of the most important facts of history, with remarks for illustration and impression, it is hoped the whole will become useful and acceptable.

EDWARD CLEVELAND.

BATH, N. H., Dec. 9, 1874.

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