

## PREFACE.

HUMAN NATURE is so liable to error, and to view facts through the medium of its own idiosyncrasies, that it is only by comparison of the opinions of different men that the world arrives at the truth of any subject.

There is scarcely a man who has reached the middle age of an active life whose experiences and the opinions formed upon them would not, if written out, be interesting and valuable to some portion of mankind.

To be valuable, however, it is of the utmost importance that the opinions be the result of intelligent observation or deduction of the person giving them.

In writing these pages I have carefully abstained from consulting 'authorities,' and have treated the different subjects from my own standpoint. Whether valuable or otherwise, the ideas are my own; and the beliefs expressed are the natural growth of long and varied experiences.

I have had ample opportunity to study the Indian character and habits in his own native wilds.

I have 'nothing extenuated nor set down aught in malice.'

THE AUTHOR.