

PREFACE TO FIRST CANADIAN EDITION.

That "truth is stranger than fiction," and that actual occurrences, well told, are vastly more interesting than imaginary ones—no matter how highly coloured—is clearly shown in the following pages.

JOHN ASHWORTH, the author of these "Tales," is well known in Rochdale, and many other parts of England, as the founder of the CHAPEL FOR THE DESTITUTE, and the champion for the poor and the outcast. Possessing a soul glowing with benevolence, piety, and zeal, he has been a most successful instrument in rescuing the fallen from the lowest depths of sin and misery to the service of HIM who saved a Saul of Tarsus and a Mary Magdalene.

The narratives are admirably given in the author's own language, and are strictly true. The names mentioned are real names, both of persons and places; and many of the sketches are of a most thrilling character.

These Tales breathe the true spirit of vital religion, which cannot fail to benefit the hearts and lives of those who read them. The work should, therefore, be in every Sunday School Library, as well as in every family in the land.

Forty thousand bound volumes, and about two millions of copies in tract form, have been sold in England, and the demand continues to increase.

This first Canadian Edition is given to the public with the earnest hope that its wide circulation will be productive of great and permanent good.

PREFACE TO SECOND CANADIAN EDITION.

The rapid sale of the first edition, and the many assurances from both ministers and people of the excellencies of this work, has induced the Book Steward to undertake the printing of a larger edition than the first, with the earnest hope and prayer that the Divine blessing may attend its extended circulation.