

## PREFACE.

I stand before you—a tall stripling of a youth, my feet just on the threshold of a world all new to me—and crave your indulgence.

The first-born of a brain, I come with fear and trembling. Perhaps I have no right to live; and looking back, my introduction has not been as full of flattering comments as is usually accorded to the newly born.

I well remember the first peep I got of this cold harsh world. She to whom I owe existence brought me forth with such a happy little feeling, as of a great favor conferred; and laying me upon her knees she explained to her Relation that I was intended to