

thanks are due, and are hereby tendered, for the exceedingly liberal use of the books of that institution; and also to the Librarian of the Boston Public Library for special privileges of a similar character. I would further add my obligations to the Librarian of the Astor Library for the privilege of consulting to my best advantage the treasures of that collection. The aids thus obtained from these three noble institutions were invaluable: indeed, without them, it would have been impossible for the author to have executed the present work.

NORWICH, CONN., Oct. 15, 1878.

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### PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION.

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THAT two editions of this work should be exhausted within a few months strongly verifies the author's belief, when writing it, that such a work was needed. Since the first edition was issued, changes and improvements in the text and illustrations have been made, which, it is believed, will render the work still more valuable to the reader.

THE AUTHOR.

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