

PREFACE.

Several years ago, with especial reference to the political subjects of discussion then as now before the American people, I prepared a work giving the views and opinions of my brother-in-law, Senator Stephen A. Douglas, of Illinois, on all those questions, with the addition of his most important writings and speeches.

Although my work met with their cordial approbation, and was endorsed and commended in writing by my friends, and the friends of Douglas, in both Houses of Congress, I decided to delay publication until I could, with diligent care, well spent leisure, greater experience, maturer and ripened judgment, revise it, make it more thorough and complete, and worthier his great and patriotic fame.

The volumes then prepared included a paper hitherto unpublished, written by Mr. Douglas, proposing, explaining, and advocating "An American Continental Commercial Union or Alliance."

The meeting of the "Three Americas, or International American Congress," makes it of great national importance that Mr. Douglas's advice on many of the subjects which the Congress will consider be now made public.

As is well known to the country, Mr. Douglas, in 1860 and 1861, favored such an amendment of the Constitution as would "allay apprehensions and impart confidence and insure domestic tranquility," and, side by side with Mr. Crittenden, of Kentucky, and many of the most distinguished patriots and statesmen of all parties, devoted his last days in the Senate, with "grave and bold counsel of moderation," to the great work of pacification and compromise.

His efforts to stay the tide of secession were as cease-