# TABLE OF CONTENTS.

### CHAPTER I.

#### BIRTH AND EARLY CHILDHOOD.

Author's Reasons for Writing Autobiography—Ancestry—Mother—Author's Early Recollections and Impressions of Her—Father—Who He Was—When and Where Author Was Born—A Description of the Cabin Where Born—Dress of the Author in Early Childhood—The "Tow Shirt"—Early Services of Author at Holding Horses and Going to the Mill—Name of Author's Owner—His Treatment of His Slaves—Author First Hears of the War from the Slaves in the "Quarters"—He Assembles with His Mother at the "Big House" and Hears Freedom to the Slaves Announced—Removal of Author's Family to West Virginia—Incidents of the Journey—Of Whom the Family Consisted at That Time.

## CHAPTER II.

#### BOYHOOD IN WEST VIRGINIA.

Beginning Life in West Virginia—Author Sees a Negro Reading a Newspaper in Malden which Kindles His First Ambition—He Learns His Letters while Working in Coal Mines and Salt Furnaces—Attends His First School—Author Gives Himself a Surname—He Turns Forward the Hands of the Clock to Enable Him to Get to School on Time—Author Learns of Sunday School from an Old Man and Becomes a Regular Attendant—Some Experiences in the Coal Mines—Author Goes to Live with the Family of Gen. Lewis Ruffner—He Runs Away, but Returns—Some Experi-