

## PREFACE.

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DURING the progress of my historical labors, the fact gradually forced itself upon me that the men who had made the history were not receiving sufficient attention. The narrative of events I could present in clear, connected form, but the artificers of those events I was forced to leave too much in the background. Throughout this westernmost America, within a comparatively short period, a great work had been accomplished, the results of which I could give; but the men who had achieved those results I could not properly present without so breaking the narrative as to deprive it of much of its historical value. In the history proper I could accord the usual space and attention; nay, more, I could and did give fully and freely biographical notices of greater or less extent; but this was not enough. They were not merely historical characters in the ordinary sense, but something more. They were not alone factors or originators of progress; they were authors of actualities, creators of commonwealths, having with their own hands fashioned from raw material the fabrics of destiny. And as such I could not but feel they were entitled to more than passing notice.

The conditions attending development here were peculiar. During the last half-century this western world has unfolded from a primeval wilderness into a