

## PREFACE.

Several philanthropic gentlemen in this city have asked me to write a history of real incidents which I have experienced during my life; and as I have been afflicted for over a year with and from the effects of la grippe, I thought I would make an effort to the best of my ability. Doubtless errors will be discovered; these I shall always be ready to acknowledge. This little work might have been double its size, but I thought that it would make more interesting reading if many occurrences of a less important nature were omitted. The reading of novels in my young days delighted me; yet the events and experiences related in those books were not a whit more thrilling than the incidents through which some men daily pass. Thus truth in all its relations may be stranger than fiction. Respecting my own race alone, many volumes should be written that would appal the world; and I have often heard related by the New Race, since the abolition of slavery, many stories of the cruelties to