

CAPTIVITY AMONG THE SIOUX.

CHAPTER I.

EARLY HISTORY—CANADA TO KANSAS—DEATH OF MY FATHER—
MY MARRIAGE—"HO! FOR IDAHO!"—CROSSING THE PLATTE
RIVER—A STORM.

I WAS born in Orillia, Canada, in 1845. Our home was on the lake shore, and there amid pleasant surroundings I passed the happy days of early childhood.

The years 1852 to 1856 witnessed, probably, the heaviest immigration the West has ever known in a corresponding length of time. Those who had gone before sent back to their friends such marvellous accounts of the fertility of the soil, the rapid development of the country, and the ease with which fortunes were made, the "Western fever" became almost epidemic. Whole towns in the old Eastern States were almost depopulated. Old substantial farmers, surrounded apparently by all the comforts that heart could wish, sacrificed the homes wherein their families had been reared for generations, and, with all their worldly possessions, turned their faces toward the set-