

PREFACE.

When the first edition of the Life of Dr. King went to press, the writer was not aware of the exact amount of matter he would receive. The principal amount of information contained in the present volume was then in the hands of different parties who had not decided positively to let the knowledge they possessed go before the public; since men by a great deal of persuasion they have consented to do so.— From the consideration that notwithstanding the many facts that have been published, still rumor is not satisfied without fabricating the most unwarrantable falsehoods on both sides that could possibly be hoped to receive attention. In compiling the present edition we have received our information from documents left by the Dr. himself and from parties whose veracity cannot be doubted, viz: Rev. Levi Vanderburgh and Mr. Alexander Stewart, the Constable who was his constant attendant in the prison during the last eight weeks of his confinement. Other parties equally reliable, viz: Mr. J. B. Young, Mr. and Mrs. Lawson have contributed their quota of information to the stock received from the sources above mentioned. One fact cannot be concealed from the reader which is that in several instances statements made by the friends of the late Mrs. King were denied by the Dr. at the last hour of his life. Again some of the statements which he made in that hour are denied by them and under the present circumstances we do not feel free to decide as to which gives the most correct statements. Here then is a mystery which perhaps will never be solved until the secrets of all hearts shall be made known and every one receives the just retribution for the good and the evil they have done in this present life. Hence we shall endeavour to give to the public the narrative as it has been given to us without comment or coloring, and leave the reader to arrive at his own conclusions.