

PREFACE.

THE origin of this book, which will account for some of its peculiarities of style, is as follows. In the early part of 1871 the author wrote for the *Chicago Tribune* a series of articles on the subject here treated, after the publication of which a considerable number of persons in different parts of the Northwest expressed a wish that they should be gathered into a volume. This led to their revision, and the addition of nearly twice as much new matter, the whole forming the work which is now offered to the public.

That the book has many imperfections, the author is well aware; they are due partly to the fact that it has been written by economizing moments of leisure snatched from professional labours, and, to use a phrase of Milton, with his left hand. Upon a subject which so many pens have discussed, it is, of course, hardly possible to say anything absolutely new; the most that a writer can hope to do is to recombine and present in novel and attractive forms, with fresh illustrations, so as to impress persons who have not been impressed before, thoughts which have substantially been repeated from the days of Solomon to those of Smiles and "Titcomb." Some of the topics, however, have been less hackneyed than others; as, for example, the important one of "Reserved Power,"—in writing the chapter upon which the author has been materially aided by some of the suggestions contained in "The Army