

The design of this work is not so much to give a history of the men, as anecdotes and incidents which illustrate their character, and the times in which they lived.

Anecdotes have been justly styled, "The Flowers of Biography and History." Those which illustrate the public or private character of distinguished personages, have at all times been read with deep interest, because they show the disposition of the men, and furnish us with a key to their character. Furthermore, a striking anecdote or incident will be remembered when a logical argument is forgotten. It will not only interest the reader at the time, but will awaken in his soul a desire to know more of the person concerning whom it is related.

Some of the men described here are comparatively unknown in history, or to the Church—such noble champions as Caleb B. Pedicord and John Easter. Some of the incidents may be considered trivial. It is all we have of the men. It is like gathering gold-dust; no matter how small the particles, they are gold.

My materials I have gathered from every available source. I have corresponded with aged ministers all over the country, in order to gather anecdotes and incidents never before published. I have also conversed with aged ministers and members, and from their trembling lips have written much that would soon have been forgotten and lost. The reader will find much in this volume he has never seen before. Other anecdotes have been gathered from old magazines, which are seen and read by few; many of them are from the other side of the Atlantic, and from biographies not published in this