

## INTRODUCTION.

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THIS volume is the reproduction of its predecessor, which appeared in 1860. This short interval, although checkered by war, is illuminated by stupendous achievements in the direction whither the energies of the people were invited.

The vivacity with which *labor*, intelligence, and moderation, in concert and alliance, march and expand in force and volume, is amazing and glorious. Nothing in sight predicts any serious check to this *tidal* flood, on which is borne every department and detail of PROGRESS.

The aim here is to grasp facts as they are; to reject delusions which have grown senile. No special chapter is here assigned to the *Western Cordillera* (the Sierra Nevada), because its general profile, its *thermal* features, and its continuity are everywhere referred to and described.

Much that has been proposed and asked from the people in the former volume is now fully completed and has gone into history. Everything else is coming with assured certainty and celerity.

In the former preface I have given expression fully to my faith and hopes. These I retain and repeat with fortified confidence and conviction.

DENVER, June 1, 1873.