

# ❧ PREFACE. ❧



What wonderful changes a few years have wrought in Northwest Missouri ! Less than forty-five years ago not a single white man dwelt within the present limits of Nodaway County. Its soil had, doubtless, occasionally been pressed by the feet of the reckless hunter and daring adventurer, but its beautiful rolling prairies, its charming timber-fringed streams and enchanting groves, were the homes of the antelope, the elk, the buffalo and the red man. How all has been changed by the hand of progress ! To-day the busy hum of industry everywhere resounds, and the voice of culture and refinement echo where once was heard the howl of the wild beast and the war-whoop of the Indian. These have been years fraught with important events to the sons and daughters from the old firesides of Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, Ohio and Indiana, and from the more distant homes beyond the Atlantic. The energy and bravery of these hardy pioneers, and their descendants, have made Nodaway County what it is. Their labors have made the wilderness "to bud and blossom as the rose," and, to preserve the story of this wonderful change, and to hand it down to posterity as a link in the history of the great state of which Nodaway County forms an integral part, has been the object of this book.

While the publishers do not arrogate to themselves a degree of accuracy beyond criticism, they hope to have attained a large measure of exactness in the compilation and arrangement of the almost innumerable incidents which are here treated. These incidents have been gleaned from the memory and notes of the old settlers, and although an error may seemingly occur, here and there, the reader must not hastily conclude that the history is in fault, but rather test his opinion with that of others familiar with the facts. Among those whom we would espe-