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ANTI-SLAVERY MOVEMENT
IN KENTUCKY, PRIOR TO 1850**

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The Pennsylvania State College

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PREFACE.

While much has been written concerning the anti-slavery movement in the United States, the work of historians has been chiefly directed toward the radical movement associated with the name of William Lloyd Garrison. This has often been done at the expense of and sometimes to the total neglect of those who favored gradual emancipation. This inequality of treatment has been accredited to the fact that the Garrisonian abolitionists were exceedingly active and vigorous in their propaganda and not to any preponderance of numbers or larger historical significance. The gradual emancipationists, unlike the followers of Garrison who were restricted to the free states, were found in all parts of the Union. They embraced great numbers of the leaders in politics, business, and education; and while far more numerous in the free than in the slave states they nevertheless included a large and respectable element in Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri. It was to be expected that the gradual emancipationists in these border states would act with conservatism. They were themselves sometimes slaveholders and in any event they saw the difficulties and dangers of any sort of emancipation. Their number was, however, too considerable and their activities too noteworthy to warrant the neglect which they have received at the hands of the historians of the anti-slavery movement.

In this volume I have attempted to relate the history of the anti-slavery movement in Kentucky to the year 1850 with special emphasis upon the work of the gradual emancipationists. I intend later to prepare a second volume which will carry the study to 1870; and I hope that the appearance of this work will encourage the promotion of similar studies in the other border states.

I desire to express my obligations to those who have aided me in the preparation of this work. Though but few can be mentioned by name, the services of all are held in grateful remembrance. While most of the work was done at Cornell University, I feel especially indebted to Professor William E. Dodd and to Professor M. W. Jernegan of the University of Chicago. Under their direction my graduate study was begun and my at-

tention directed to the subject of this investigation. To Professor George F. Zook, of The Pennsylvania State College, I am under obligation for reading and criticizing the manuscript. Nor can I fail to mention the many courtesies shown me at the library of the Wisconsin State Historical Society, at the library of the University of Chicago, where the Durrett collection of Kentucky newspapers and manuscripts was placed at my disposal before it had been catalogued or thrown open to the general public, at the library of Cornell University, at the Congressional Library, at Harvard University Library, at the Boston Public Library and at the libraries in Cincinnati. Through the kindness of Miss Sophonisba Breckinridge of the University of Chicago much valuable material was obtained from the Breckinridge papers now deposited in the Library of Congress but not yet available for public use. Above all I am indebted to my wife for valuable assistance rendered me in reading and correcting both manuscript and proof.

In justice to the persons named, I should add that the author alone is responsible for statements of fact and for conclusions. In a few cases, perhaps unwisely, I have disregarded their suggestions.

December 12, 1917.

ASA EARL MARTIN.

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