

# **TEXAS IN 1850**

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Texas in 1850 by Melinda Rankin

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**MELINDA RANKIN**

# **TEXAS IN 1850**



# TEXAS

IN

1850.

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BY MELINDA RANKIN.

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No. 16 Devonshire Street.  
1852.

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## P R E F A C E.

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A COMPLETE and correct delineation of Texas is an undertaking of no small magnitude, and in assuming such a responsible task, I am aware that much depends upon its successful prosecution. Motives sufficiently powerful, however, induce me to make the attempt, and embark my enterprise upon the uncertain sea of public opinion.

Having spent several months during last year in the older States, the evidence was constantly presented, that a history, illustrating the present condition of Texas would be an important service in enlightening the public mind abroad, relative to her true character and condition. It is a fact that Texas is not sufficiently known to give her that importance abroad which her merits demand, and the object of this work is to lift the veil of ignorance which now obscures one of the most interesting and important portions of the United States.

Not having any interest in Texas but the desire of benefiting it, my representations will, I trust, be impartial, such as will exhibit its merits and demerits, its wants, and the proper adaptation of means to supply those wants, and, if possible, to enlist Christian sympathy and co-operation in aid of evangelizing a country which is destined, evidently, to exert an important influence over other contiguous countries.

Texas occupies a very important position in regard to the unevangelized portions of our own continent, and on this account, claims more notice from the north and east in behalf of moral enterprise, than has been hitherto extended towards her. A voice has been sounding long and loud in the ears of eastern churches, in behalf of the west, "the far west," until their sympathy has become concentrated within the valleys of the western rivers. Shall it stop there, and not be extended to other portions of the Union, whose claims are as great, and whose importance is second to none others?

Appeals must be made until they strike the sympathetic chords of New-England philanthropy, and excite to efforts in behalf of this south-western portion of our glorious Union: The resources of New-England are not yet exhausted; from her armory may yet be drawn spiritual weapons sufficient to supply the moral wants of Texas.

Born and reared amidst the high and exalted privileges of New-England, — having breathed the air and inhaled somewhat of her philanthropic spirit, I turn with ardent desire, and present an important appeal to my beloved country —

"The land of every land the pride,  
Beloved by heaven, o'er all the world beside"—

The land of gospel privileges and institutions, and which possesses the means that might be rendered pre-eminently instrumental in blessing our land and world. I fain would reiterate the call in behalf of Texas.

If our New-England friends would disseminate throughout the land the principles of the puritan fathers, they must send



out more, *many more*, of their numbers, to occupy the wide and destitute fields of the south west. New-England has done much to spread the gospel in other sections of country; but she owes to Christ, to the church of God, a great deal more, in strengthening the hands and encouraging the hearts of Christians, who are occupying the destitute fields in Texas. She might, without impoverishing herself, send scores of her young ministers to scatter the good seed, in fields which would amply compensate the labor; and it is evidently her privilege and duty to do so.

Knowing as I do the extensive means in her power, I am bold in presenting the claims of Texas.

Having identified myself with the interest of this highly interesting State, its wants I justly feel, and in advocating its cause, I am fully aware that the importance of the object justifies me in the performance of the duty.

The growing importance of Texas is a matter of serious consideration. It embraces a territory much larger in extent than New England, and with its fertile soil and genial climate it may naturally be inferred that in the course of a few years it will be filled up with a dense population. Whether the blessings of the gospel will accompany all the changes which will evidently take place, is a question of infinite importance. Now is the time for action, the future may be too late. We must all work, and work all together, if we expect moral enterprises will increase and spread, with the increasing and spreading population of the State.

*Cincinnati, Texas, 1850.*



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