

PREFACE.

This preface is the apology I make for writing this book ; I have said in my short biography, that in the beginning of this writing I had intended to defer its publication till my decease, but finding myself in better health, concluded to have it done in my lifetime, should it be the Lord's good pleasure. Hence, the term auto-biography.

In my earlier life and now, in looking over the smallness and limitedness of my life in reference to what it might have been, that I might to some extent remedy that deficiency by leaving something behind that some one peradventure might profit by it in a moral and religious point of view—hence, this auto-biography, to which, this is a prelude.

The Bible says: The good man dies and goes to his place. That is, to Heaven, of course, and yea, says the Spirit, and his works, do follow him. Dear brothers, sisters and fellow mortals in the flesh, won't we try to secure some memento when we shall have passed to our blessed abode above, that may say to some one, "This is the way." Let our lives be such while here that they may be interpreted to say as above quoted. This is the way; walk ye in it. It does seem to be a lean hope for some of our fellow-travelers—the way so many are living. The Lord, I hope, will visit them in due time to discover their ruin.

This then will be my last word, in the pages of this book, and I would have them as full of truth and love to God and my fellow mortals as if it were the last I should utter below, and to those that I shall see no more in the flesh to them it is even so, my last words, dear ones, to you — I shall see you no more in the flesh. I take the parting hand with many who have had sweet comfort in fellowship with our blessed Master; our peace has often been as a river and our faith and righteousness as the wave of the sea, but our earthly union now ceases with these loved friends and relations near or distant. My heart and soul goes out in enthusiastic love toward you; we must part and meet no more in the flesh. O, shall we meet again? What would we do if there were no future hope of meeting again? But O, blessed thought, not only does Jesus offer us the Christian hope in common for all, but more especially to them that are battling hard against the world the flesh and the devil.

My dear loved ones, again I say. I've but a few more words to say to you before I leave, — if this book falls into your hands, any and to all it has been written with prayer incessant, prayer that the sentiment conveyed might reach each and every heart, and so unite us in the bonds of love and affection that will never be slackened, but will grow stronger with our growth and progress in time, and so ripen in love and unity of the spirit of holiness that the good Lord can gather us all to himself in and amidst the beatific glories of the celestial world above. Amen, Praise, Praise.

One other matter I wish to allude to, as I have not done so before, is my church relation. I came to Iowa, a member of the M. E. Church; was converted in Tennessee, in the fall of 1832 (as I hold in mind now, as I have no notes to go by; nor have had in all my writing for this book, but have written as it come to mind); as above stated came to Iowa a member of the M. E. Church, but finding it necessary in the progress of events to change my membership, joined the Methodist Protestant Church; the cause we need not allude to here. Came here an efficient member of the M. E. Church, licensed by the quarterly conference, but not ordained till I joined the Protestants, which was done by the Protestant Church, her ministry. Now having in this writing set forth all that presents itself, as needful thus far, subscribe myself,

A. NEWELL,
Minister M. P. Church.