

**LOWELL, AS IT  
WAS, AND AS IT IS**

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Lowell, as It Was, and as It Is by Henry A. Miles

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**HENRY A. MILES**

**LOWELL, AS IT  
WAS, AND AS IT IS**



LOWELL, <sup>1570</sup>

AS IT WAS, AND AS IT IS.

BY

REV. HENRY A. MILES,

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"Art is the handmaid of human good."

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SECOND EDITION.

LOWELL:  
NATHANIEL L. DAYTON,  
MERRILL & HEYWOOD.

1846.

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## PREFACE.

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THE unexampled growth of the city of Lowell gives interest to some notice of the successive steps by which it has attained to its present importance, of the extent of its manufacturing operations, and of the actual condition of its industrious population. An unsettled territory of pasture and meadow has, within the memory of the middle-aged, been covered with substantial edifices, mills, stores, churches, blocks of houses, the prosperous homes of nearly thirty thousand people; thus almost realizing the creations of some oriental fable, at least emulating in a few years what, in other places, has been the slow growth of centuries.

From the size of this book the reader will not expect any thing more than what the brief time allowed the author permitted him to prepare—a work which, without the minuteness of a history, will yet supply the information which all visitors to this city wish to obtain. To the citizens and operatives of Lowell, likewise, it is hoped that this book will not be without value. Following a rapid sketch of the growth of this place, there will be found a variety of statistical facts, collected from the Agents, the Overseers, the Operatives, and the Matrons of the boarding-houses. On this portion of the book much the most care has been bestowed. The great questions relating to Lowell are those which concern the health and character of its laboring classes. It is believed that more full and precise information on these points is given in the following pages, than has ever before been published. The object constantly kept in

view has been, not the statement of opinions and impressions, but that careful presentation of facts which will enable a stranger to judge for himself.

It is singular that a place, not yet twenty-five years old, should already have fabulous stories mingled with its history. Yet such is the case. The accounts which have been published of the chance discovery of the water-power at Pawtucket Falls by a sportsman, and of the report of an engineer, subsequently made, that there was no water-power here, are wholly without foundation. Great pains have been taken to arrive at an exact knowledge of the facts respecting the origin of Lowell, and it is known that they are correctly stated in this book.

In the preparation of the following pages, important assistance has been received from Patrick T. Jackson, Esq., from Dr. E. Hobbs, of Waltham, from the Agents of the Corporations in this city,