

**FROM UNDER THE CLOUD;
OR, PERSONAL
REMINISCENCES OF
INSANITY**

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From Under the Cloud; Or, Personal Reminiscences of Insanity by Anna Agnew

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ANNA AGNEW

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Yours Sincerely
Anna Agnew

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BY

ANNA AGNEW.

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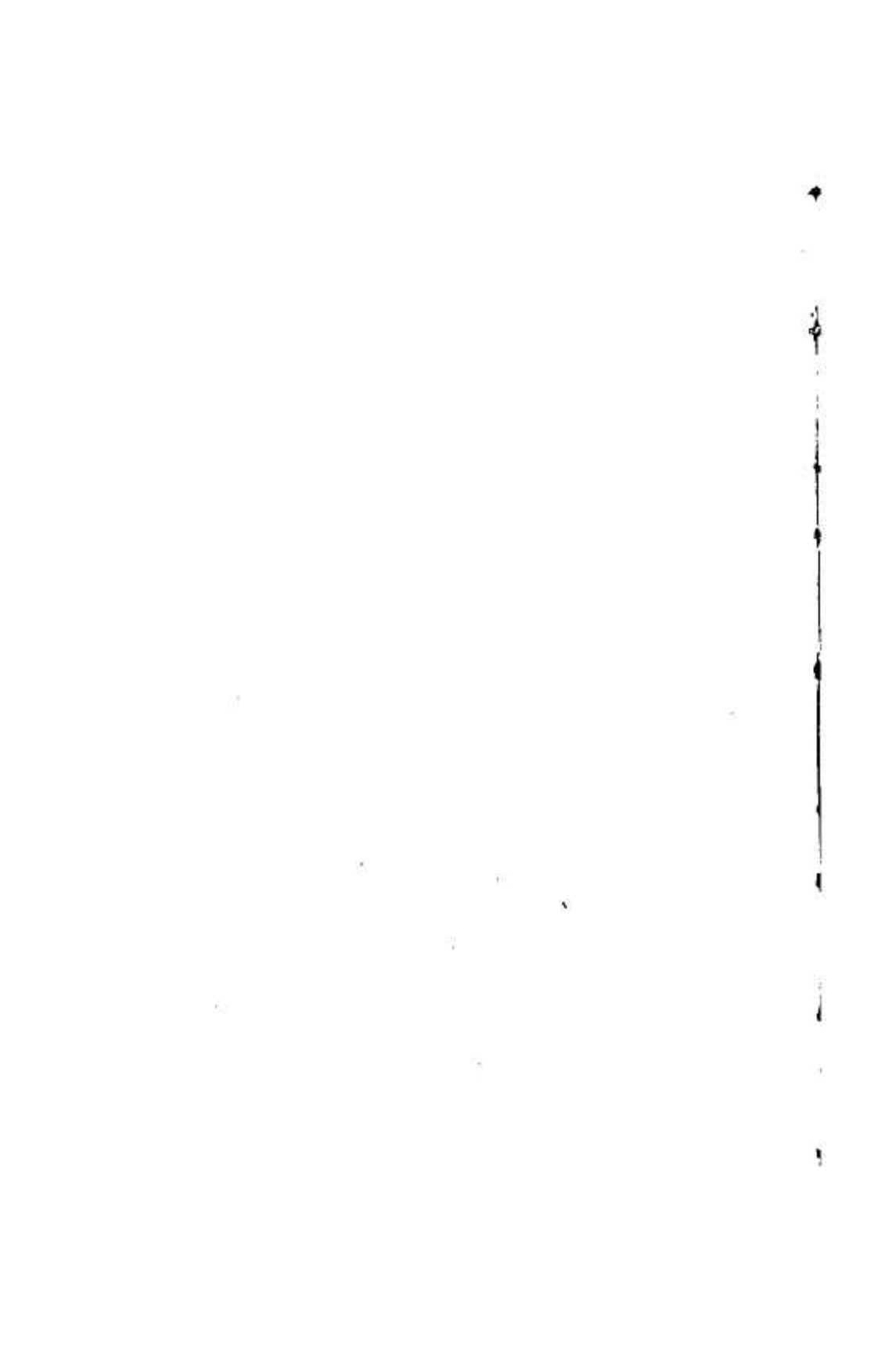
Dedication.

THIS VOLUME IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED
TO
MY CHILDREN.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.,

November 1, 1887.

*"My heart will still cling to them fondly,
And dream of sweet memories past;
While hope, like the rainbow of promise,
Gives assurance of meeting at last."*



PREFACE.

IN attempting a history of a very painful period of my life, I recognize the difficulty under which I shall labor, particularly in the account given of the time spent at the hospital for insane. In my efforts to give a perfectly truthful account of occurrences there, I wish particularly to impress upon the public the fact that I have not the slightest intention or inclination to reflect upon the three different managements under whose care I was during a period of seven years, as I could have not one word to say against their personal kindness to myself, or any other patient—but at the same time, will speak freely of gross abuses, for

which there is no remedy, until state laws require that none but those who are fitted for the sacred duties of attendants upon the insane be employed—such preparation being a complete course in a training school for nursing.

I say, fearlessly, that I am competent to judge of the wisdom of such requirement, and from painful experience consider it my duty to speak in behalf of my suffering sisters. Superintendents should not be held responsible for unfaithful attendants—for to no person is this class so obsequious, so invariably upon their good behavior, as before this officer. One of our superintendents in an article on this subject says: "The wards of the insane are a sealed book to the superintendent," and even he, though particularly watchful for the comfort of the unfortunate inmates, realizes very slightly the full meaning of his term, "sealed book."

"Nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice." Let this be my aim. And so I send