Centennial history of Harrison, Maine

Moulton Alphonso
LONG LAKE AND SHORES

CANAL-BOAT "ARTHUR WILLIS"
Centennial History
of
Harrison, Maine

Containing
The Centennial Celebration of 1905, and
Historical and Biographical Matter

Compiled and Edited by
ALPHONSO MOULTON, HOWARD L. Sampson
and GRANVILLE FERNALD

"All human beings, not utter savage, long
for some information about past times."

LORD MACAULAY

"It is wise for us to recur to the history of
our ancestors. Those who are regardless
of their ancestors * * * * * do not per-
form their duty to the world."

DANIEL WEBSTER

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PREFACE

It is under circumstances of peculiar misfortune that a large number of the latter pages of this book were written and edited for the printer. On June 28, 1908, Alphonso Moulton, Esq., the principal author and editor, passed to the higher life after a serious illness from an insidious and fatal disease.

The writer hereof having been to some extent a co-laborer with Messrs. Moulton and Sampson, compilers and editors, for more than three years past, in the composition and arrangement of important matter for this work, is conscious of the honor and responsibility which is upon him, in assuming the duties to which he has been assigned by the authority of the Centennial Executive Committee, within whose control, conjointly with the municipal officers of the town, the publication of the Centennial History still remains.

The general scheme of the Editorial Committee, as communicated to the writer in the beginning of the work of preparation of historical matter, was that first: a series of sketches of the pioneer families of the town, genealogical, and to a degree, biographical, wherever it seemed proper, should constitute a large part of the work; under the belief that the true history of the town would be best illustrated by authentic histories of the lives, characters and public services rendered, and the part performed by each citizen in laying the foundation of prosperity and in promoting the success of all patriotic institutions, which have, to the present time, reflected honor and luster upon their generation. This special commemoration of the pioneers
was not to preclude any necessary or deserved recognition of the advent and residence here for a term of years of families or individuals, who by education, character or other qualification have served the inhabitants of the town in a high professional manner in law, medicine, the ministry of religion, or in statesmanship; for some of the most devoted and useful citizens of the past and present era, were not of the older "first families." Thus, they will observe that in some instances those whom our people have "most delighted to honor," have been born and educated elsewhere.

Another equally important feature of the work was to be: an accurate review of the religious and civil institutions, the general progress of education, and the processes of moral culture and social refinement since the organization of the town. The plan also contemplated reliable histories of the development of the various industries; the improvements in methods of agriculture; the useful innovations in the mechanical arts; the origin and successes of manufacturing enterprises; the accession of wealth and business importance achieved through the mercantile connections of our citizens with other merchants in the large cities and by profitable dealing with the people of their section; the establishment of town, church and school buildings, and notable private dwellings; the record of the patriotism of our people in furnishing troops for the Civil War; the surprising advent in late years of the means of travel, conveyance of merchandise and personal communication owing to modern scientific discoveries and inventions. The elaboration of these different designs has enabled the writers to present to the citizens of the town and State, a most gratifying word-picture of all the scenes and subjects of interest to them or to the strangers who come within our gates.
Attention may be asked to the fine illustration by portraits of the good men and women whose lives are commemorated in this volume, whom some of us knew in their lives and whom we all hold in loving remembrance and veneration.

It is sincerely hoped that the citizens of Harrison, having let patience have her "perfect work," will appreciate how cautiously the compilers resolved to proceed in every step of their labors, so that every statement in this volume should bear the stamp of complete authenticity; for, though it was their desire to make a book that, to use a common phrase, might be "as interesting as a novel" yet it should not be suspected of containing anything even bordering on the domain of fiction; for that is not history.

The apparent slowness of the progress of compilation of the book has been unavoidable. The natural eagerness and expectancy of our people to see the work in print has been constantly apprehended, and often expressed to the authors and editors. Their inexperience in book-writing, and the immense demands upon their powers of calculation of resources, the failure of many friends to furnish necessary data for formulation of readable articles, and the fact that the main brunt of the undertaking came upon one man, whose physical system was being gradually undermined by the approach of a malady so secret and fatal in its nature that the result even now appalls us as we remember how suddenly he was called away, is sufficient explanation of the seeming delay, and of the subsidence of force in an intellect that while toiling incessantly for many months in a quest of facts for portraying the careers of individuals, and of the lives of fellow mortals like himself, the devotedness to the object to which he was committed, vividly calls to mind the sacrifice illustrated by the title of a famous story, "A Life for a Life."