

OLD TONEY AND HIS MASTER;

OR,

THE ABOLITIONIST AND THE LAND-PIRATE,

FOUNDED ON FACT.

A TALE OF 1824-1827.

BY DESMOS.

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1816-1860

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TO THE
HON. J. D. B. DE BOW,

THIS WORK IS MOST AFFECTIONATELY

Inscribed,

AS A MEMORIAL OF THE
AUTHOR'S PERSONAL REGARD AND GRATITUDE FOR MANY FAVORS CONFERRED;

AS A TESTIMONIAL OF

HIS UNFLINCHING PATRIOTISM, HIS STERN INTEGRITY,

HIS UNTIRING PERSEVERANCE UNDER DIFFICULTIES APPALLING TO OTHERS;

HIS NOBLE AND UNSELFISH PHILANTHROPY;

BUT, ABOVE ALL,

HIS MANLY INDEPENDENCE, AND DEVOTION TO THE CAUSE OF THE SOUTH,

WHOSE INTERESTS HE HAS SO LONG AND SO

FAITHFULLY ADVOCATED.

DESMOS.

PREFACE.

MAY the reading of these pages touch the heart of the reader; as the writing of the largest portion of this work touched mine, so that my eyes were often blinded by my tears. And the reason why my own heart was so deeply affected, kind reader, is because the facts herein recorded are so true, and so near home. *For there is scarcely a chapter written of either of these three books, which does not contain a great fact.* The whole book is, in truth, a compilation of facts, many of them disconnected, it is true, which the author has attempted to interweave as artistically as the delicate nature of the circumstances would admit. This work may, therefore, more properly be considered a *history* than a *fiction*.

It is true that names of persons and places, of dates and scenery, have all been altered or suppressed, for obvious reasons, but these alterations do not affect the value of the truths themselves, nor should they, because they are tangible facts, touch less deeply the reader's sympathetic heart.

Kind reader, bear with the faults of the work, whatever in your opinion they may be, and look only at the good which is intended. For although it may be regarded as an attempt to represent the *inner life* of

the slave and the slaveholder, and the infamous character of *some or most of those* who have operated *secretly* at the South as engineers upon the so-called "Underground Railroad," yet the author has had a higher and a grander object, that of representing the Christian's faith in times of tribulation and distress, and to show that God "will not always chide, neither will He keep his anger forever," but He "tempers the wind to the shorn lamb." It strives also to inculcate the truth that God is his avenger. Why then, should he himself seek to avenge his own wrongs, since God will "bring him out of all his troubles."

As a politico-religious work, therefore, I lay this book, with an humble heart, but a hopeful spirit, as an offering—the one part upon the altar of my country—the other, upon the altar of my God.

DESMOS.

LAWTONVILLE, *April 10, 1860.*

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