CONCLUSION.

LACK of further space admonishes us that "The Big Sandy Valley" and the history of its people must close. This work was undertaken by the author with a full realization of the fact that to collect material of sufficient importance to the public at large, to fill a volume of five hundred pages, was a work of great labor. The reader will learn by referring to the preface to the book, that it was not intended, neither was it possible, to take up the beginning of Sandy history from the time the Vancoovers, in 1789, built two forts or blockhouses on the point of land where the Levisa and Tug Rivers join, and nearly at the same time the Leslies assayed to make a settlement at the mouth of Pond Creek, on the Tug River, and in one continuous chain connect, in chronological order, each event as it took place, as each settler followed on the footsteps of his predecessor into the valley; nor, as was further stated, have we searched the records of the different counties to discover who were, at different times, elected to fill the various county, State, and national offices, for the reason that those facts are always at hand on the records of the county and other courts, or may be found

among the archives at Frankfort. Rather have we, as promised, recorded the important events connected with the early settlement of the valley in the order coming to us through diligent and patient research, embracing, as the chief aim, a desire to snatch from oblivion the personal and family history of the people of the valley, while by no means ignoring the political history when the individual acts of the people might be more prominently brought forth. In every case, however, we have given dates as near as could be ascertained by the closest inquiry and research.

In preparing these pages we have met with innumerable difficulties, and have had to overcome them by increased labor and physical toil, traveling hundreds of miles, and sending out numerous appeals to those who, we thought, might be able and willing to give any information throwing light on the subject undertaken by the author, for the benefit of the people of the Big Sandy Valley. Had all of those whom we personally solicited, or to whom we sent letters of inquiry, been prompt in responding, the book would, no doubt, be more interesting than it is.

The author, however, is placed under great obligations to Colonel John Dils, Jr., of Pikeville, for the graphic article he furnished on the middle period of Big Sandy history, embracing the historical acts of quite a number of well-known men and families who have been an honor to the valley.

To Captain John B. Goff, of Big Creek, Pike County, we return thanks for favors bestowed.

Major John B. Auxier, of East Point, has contributed valuable information, connected with his own personal experience and obtained from the lips of his father, the late Samuel Auxier, of Blockhouse Bottom, and from General Daniel Hager, and the general's venerable mother, a lady of strong mind and character, possessing a retentive memory, who lived to a time remembered by many people still living in the section where she spent her long and useful life.

Allen Hatton, of Rockville, Lawrence County, added much information, as also did Rev. R. D. Callihan and Samuel P. Hager, Esq., of Ashland, Ky.

Dr. Dickson, of Johnson County, helped much in furnishing facts and dates of the early history of the valley.

Mrs. Matilda Rice, of Catlettsburg, deserves honorable mention for like favors.

K. F. Leslie, of Graham's Place, Floyd County, also has our thanks for assistance in many ways.

Hon. R. H. Weddington furnished a long and valuable paper on the early history of his house and collaterals; but unfortunately the article, unintentionally, was lost or misplaced, and was afterwards reproduced from memory, robbing it of much of its intrinsic value.

Robert A. Preston, of Richardson, has aided materially in the way of statistics.

To Rev. Z. Meek, D. D., the author is under lasting gratitude for preparing the sketch of the capture, by the Indians, of Jenny Wiley, and her escape from them to her friends at the Block-house, now Johnson County, Kentucky. The reverend gentleman having been born and having lived to manhood near the place where Mrs. Wiley resided, and being connected with her by marriage, is able, more accurately than most others, to give all the facts connected with the noted woman's awful trials.

Our labor for years in the preparation of this work, in the interim of pressing cares and prostration by almost continuous feeble health, has not been without its joys, in the hope that we were engaged in a task that would add, in some degree, to the material, intellectual, and moral advancement of the people of the Sandy Valley, the heroic deeds of whose ancestors has been the basis of all that is recorded in these pages.

The Author.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE.

It is due to the reader that we should say some errors crept into this book, either by oversight or otherwise. To issue so large a book without errors, especially by those new to the business of bookmaking, could hardly be expected.

In referring to the counties of Johnson and Floyd, their political complexion was reversed, by the use of the word *latter*, instead of *former*.

In the article on the Hager family, Reuben Patrick was the name intended, but that of Elijah managed to get in somehow.

The article on the Hattons reads grandfather, in speaking of J. F. Hatton, when it should have been father.

Brother slipped in where it should have been son, in the article on the Auxier family, referring to the death of little 'Lige.

Further we need not particularize. There is some duplication of matter, caused by the author's forwarding copy to the printers direct, which was not seen by the publisher until after the articles were in type.

One other matter deserves notice. The arrangement of the book is not just as we would have had it; but it required several hundred more pages of manuscript than we calculated on to fill the space; hence, a proper classification could not be made.

We be speak for this book a large sale, and hearty appreciation by the people. Publisher.

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