

# **BUILDING A NEW EMPIRE**

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Building a New Empire by Nathaniel M. Ayers

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**NATHANIEL M. AYERS**

**BUILDING A  
NEW EMPIRE**





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# BUILDING A NEW EMPIRE

By  
NATHANIEL M. AYERS

A Historical Story of the Settlement of the Wild West.  
Taking Up the Wild Scenes Incident to the Settlement  
Of a Country Inhabited By Buffalo and Hostile Indians.

Dedicated to the Nebraska State Historical Society



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## PREFACE.

The story of "Building a New Empire" is not a story conceived in the vivid imagination of the author, or wrought from the wild scenes of the growing West in fiction or by inspiration, but a story of actual experience in making a new West, and the memory of the events of those trying times has led up to writing this manuscript.

In general conversation these events have been related many times, and editors have asked for historical events to be written for publication, and the writer has been urged to put these actual facts in book form, so the conditions existing in the early days in the settlement of the "New Empire" might be known to the younger generations coming on to occupy the country so recently wrested from the wild man of the plains.

The writer had expected to receive assistance from the few old settlers still living, and who had witnessed the meteoric changes in the West in the past thirty-five or forty years, but none could be found that could give additional facts or evidence of value. Many who passed through the wild scenes of the West could not be located, and those that could be found could give but very few reliable facts of value to add to the circumstances related, so the memory of one man is largely in evidence in writing a historical sketch of the last "new West." In some instances fictitious names have been used to represent the real characters, or the letters transposed, but when actual history is

## Preface

recorded, as in state and county officers the actual names of the parties are in evidence.

The purpose of this work is to put in the hands of the reading public the experience and hardships, and the stirring scenes of the actual settlers on the frontier of the new West, who with the aid of the soldier, the scout, the hunter, civilized the last frontier of this great Nation.

Should any gifted writer in future years draw inspiration from this work to glowingly put in prose or poetry the stirring scenes of taming the wild West, my labor will not have been in vain.

THE AUTHOR.