

Harriet Tubman.

A life of Harriet Tubman has been published at Auburn, N. Y., and will doubtless excite much interest, as history presents few more heroic careers than hers. A slave that escaped from bondage when she was twenty-five years of age, a homely, ungainly, angular, robust negro woman, she for years risked more to rescue her race from bondage, and did more than almost any other individual who could be named. She went nineteen times from Philadelphia into the slave states where enormous rewards were offered for her capture, and where her death would certainly have resulted from failure, and enabled many slaves to escape. She went eleven times from Canada. She traveled in railway cars which had the proclamation of a reward of \$12,000 for her capture posted over her head. She traveled by night on foot, over mountains, across forests and rivers, amid dangers which can be realized by no description. She was a person of sharp resolution, too; and would allow none to fall back when she led the way. Sometimes members of her party would lose heart in the weariness and perpetual danger of the flight; and thinking it better to go back and give themselves up than to be overtaken and carried back, would insist on returning. "Then there was no remedy but force; the revolver carried by this daring pioneer would be pointed at their heads. 'Dead niggers tell no tales,' said Harriet. 'Go on or die!'" And so she compelled them to drag their weary limbs on their northward journey." She was not going to run the risk of having the secret of her underground railway discovered by the faint-hearted return into slavery of some runaway who had gone so far under her guidance. During the four years of the war Harriet served the army—now as a nurse; now as a spy, penetrating among the rebels; now in her old occupation, enabling the slaves to run away. This part of her life was full of interest and adventure. She received no recompense for her services. She got neither pay nor pension, and it seems "drew for herself but twenty days' rations during the four years of her labor." Her physical energy and strength were wonderful; but not so wonderful as the enthusiasm, the religious devotion which always sustained her. Harriett Tubman is living now in Auburn; where she maintains herself, her old parents, and some poor children, rescued like herself from slavery. She exerts herself likewise to obtain contributions for the support of two schools of freedmen in the south. She is poor, and she is partially disabled from injuries received during her eventful career. She seeks no recompense for her services, and the only help she asks from the public is to enable her to carry on the peaceful works of charity to which, her days of battle over, she now devotes herself.