

banks of the River Raisin and the Detroit River, which are now adorned with beautiful specimens of architecture, there were then only two small settlements, Monroe and Detroit; and near to these a few French farms lay scattered upon the streams of the frontier. The interior was a wilderness, then but little known. In these villages the Indian was nearly as often met as the white man. The mercantile houses in these settlements were often surrounded by the pack-horses of the savages loaded with furs; and he has journeyed through the forests towards Detroit with Canadian Frenchmen, who were then transporting them to that place, which was the principal mart of the trade. In visiting the State of Michigan in 1837 the country could scarcely be recognized. A new class of population had spread itself out upon the soil, villages had begun to dot the wilderness from the banks of St. Clair to Lake Michigan, and, under the progress of industry, the State had sprung up in power and importance like a volcanic island from the sea.

Having been cast as an emigrant two hundred miles into the interior during the last year, it occurred to him that a new and rich field was opened around him to research; and that, comparatively, little was known respecting the early condition of the country by many who had been long residents. Measures were soon taken to collect the most interesting circumstances connected with its early history. The matter soon grew upon his hands, and it was thought that the facts thus accumulated were worthy of publication. The liberal encouragement of the State furnished a further motive to that end. It will be seen that the facts embodied in relation to the later progress of the territory have been thrown together in a more rapid form, as there are no distinct epochs in the space of four or five years. Even the first newspaper in Michigan was issued as late as 1809. The recent history of the country is, indeed, little more than the history of rapid emigration and settlement.

From the facts here embodied, it will be perceived that the operations of the European Governments in this country were actuated by a desire of dominion; and that it was the