

PREFACE.

AMONG the philanthropists who dedicated themselves to the work of reclaiming the aborigines of our country and spreading civilization throughout the West, is a man who has remained comparatively unknown, although he deserves a prominent place in history. His name is DAVID ZEISBERGER. As a missionary and an Indian linguist he is the peer of John Eliot; while he far outranks him as a herald of the Gospel and a forerunner of the race that has since possessed the land in which he labored. As regards the frequency of his journeys among the Indians and the privations which he endured in his efforts to convert them, no one is his equal except the Jesuit Fathers of the seventeenth century.

I have attempted, in the following pages, to give a narrative of his life, devoting, for a number of years, such time to this work as was not occupied by official duties.

The only Life of Zeisberger which has been published is a small pamphlet of seventy-one pages,