

P R E F A C E .

When the writer began the researches out of which the following pages have grown, he did not anticipate that the work would reach its present proportions. His original design was simply to translate from the *Relations* of the Jesuit Fathers at his command, such extracts as described their labors among the Cayugas whose canton, known to the French as Goi-o-gouen, was largely comprised within the limits of the county which bears their name—and of special interest to the local historian as its earliest annals and written by the first white men who trod its soil. The several translations were carefully made for the purpose, and with the desire that the work of these heroic and devoted men should speak for itself. With this view, a series of articles, which first appeared in the *Auburn Daily Advertiser*, was prepared, but carrying the history of the Mission in detail no further than 1672 (the *Relations* in the writer's possession closing with that year) and they were subsequently gathered into a pamphlet as originally printed.

The publication attracted attention outside the immediate locality for which it was intended; and a second series was undertaken at the suggestion and with the co-operation of Dr. John Gilmary Shea, the accomplished historian of *Catholic Missions among the Indian Tribes of the United States*, who generously proposed to arrange and translate from the ampler material in his possession, the narrative of the Cayuga Mission from 1672, the point where it was left in the previous publication, to its close. The translations made by Dr. Shea with this view, are included in chapter VII of the present series and also cover the complete account of the Sulpitian Mission among the Emigrant Cayugas about Quinté Bay, which forms an important chapter in the religious history of this people. The proof sheets of the entire work have passed under his revision, and the Introduction, from his pen, happily interprets its scope and purpose. It gives me great satisfaction to acknowledge this courtesy, and the invaluable service thus rendered in the interests of our local history, while the pleasant relations which have sprung up in this mutual labor, are by no means among the least of its rewards.

The opening chapter, containing the preliminary history common to the several Iroquois Missions, appears for the first in the present edition, and is condensed from the several *Relations* which cover that period.