

With the exception of the discourses to which allusion has been made, the present volume is the first attempt to exhibit, in a connected form, the history of Michigan. At points I have gone beyond the bounds of the State as now organized, when the facts appeared to have a bearing on the main object. The history of Michigan is traced back to the early history of Canada, because it was a province of that dominion, was peopled by the same stock, and subject to the same government under the French and English domination. In the prosecution of the work I have, in a few instances, used the language of others ; and a portion of two articles which I had prepared, and which were inserted in the *North American Review*, has been here embodied, for the purpose of avoiding the labor which would be required in transcribing the parts relating to their subjects.

No one can be more sensible than myself of the deficiency of the present volume. It has been sent in parcels to the press, and locked up in stereotype plates before I could have the opportunity to correct them as I could wish, being distant from the place of publication. A law of Michigan, subscribing for the work, also limited the time of its delivery to the first of May, 1839. This plea is put in to abate the severity of criticism, which might be urged against any inaccuracies that may be discovered, either in point of fact or literary execution. I have not sought to collect every incident which has occurred at the north-west, and the evidence to support it or oppose it, and to enter upon long hypothetical arguments for the purpose of establishing them ; but it has been my design to group those prominent circumstances which seem to have been founded on strong evidence, and which have controlled the destiny of the State, for the purpose of showing why Michigan is in its present condition, and to give a general sketch of its geographical features. In this labor I have occupied that portion of time which ought to have been, and will be hereafter, exclusively devoted to the labors of an arduous profession.

Thirteen years ago the author had occasion to spend one year in what was then the territory of Michigan. Upon the