

P R E F A C E.

IN the preparation of this volume, I have not aimed so much at literary excellence as to produce a work of usefulness. The materials for its pages were ripe in abundance; and it has been a work of no little difficulty to select from these contemporaries subjects most appropriate for a History of Wisconsin, and to group them in the order best calculated to make their presentation acceptable. In the pursuit of this end, the following range of general subjects has been considered in the order designated.

The opening chapters are intended to familiarize the reader with the physical and antiquarian features of the Territory now embraced within the limits of the State. This is not only necessary to a better understanding of the events that have transpired upon it, but furnishes in itself much of interest and instruction.

The **EARLY HISTORY** of Wisconsin constitutes the second distinguishing feature. In this part, pains have been taken to present a strictly chronological narrative of all the important events in the early history of the Territory, covering a period from its first exploration by the French down to the organization of the Territorial Government, in 1836.

The third division of the work may be designated by a cyclopædia of legislation during the administrations of each of the governors, from Dodge to Taylor inclusive. It is believed that the vast amount of labor which has been expended in condensing this digest from the official documentary journals will result in the enlargement of useful information among the people of the