

PREFACE.

The great interest which has been taken in the Colonial History of "POST VINCENNES" and its intimate connection with the Colonial History of the whole North-Western Territory, in addition to the fact, that the whole edition of the "address" delivered before the "Vincennes Historical and Antiquarian Society" in 1839, amounting to two thousand copies, has long since been exhausted, has induced the author, at the earnest solicitation of others, to issue another edition with notes and illustrations, which it was impossible to combine with the address—but which are interesting as still further elucidating, the subject matter of the address itself. These memorials of the early settlement of the North-Western Territory, it is due to ourselves and those who come after us, to preserve if possible. The field is a large one, and what is more, rich and productive in incidents of the most interesting character. I have but gleaned a few connected with the early settlement of "THE POST" so called "par excellence," as the rallying point of an Empire, extending from the Lakes to the Ohio, from the Miami to the Mississippi—and now containing within its borders the four great States of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

I know of no portion of our country richer in historical incident. For surely a town which is one of the oldest on the Continent—one for the possession of which, the greatest nations of the earth have contended—France, England, and the United States. One located upon the beautiful stream which flows before it, the "OUABACHE." A river known and noted on the maps of the West long before the Ohio was known in the geography of the Mis-